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Wednesday, 13 January 2010, 9.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Zhang Yesui	(China)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/9)

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10-20793 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Expression of sympathy concerning earthquake in Haiti

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I wish to express my profound concern about the devastating earthquake that took place yesterday in Haiti. Members of the Council are deeply saddened by the reported loss of life and injuries, including among United Nations peacekeeping and civilian personnel. Members of the Council convey their heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Haiti. I now invite members to stand and observe a minute of silence.

The members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/9)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): On behalf of the Security Council, I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General and the representatives of the regional and subregional organizations participating in today's Security Council meeting. Their presence is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter being discussed today.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to: His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission; His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; His Excellency Mr. Nikolai Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization; Mr. Pedro Serrano, acting head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations; His Excellency Mr. Claudio Bisogniero, Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States; His Excellency Mr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; His Excellency Mr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk, head of the External Cooperation Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; His Excellency Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum; and His Excellency Mr. Muratbek Sansyzbayevich Imanaliyev, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

It is so decided.

I invite the aforementioned representatives to take the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members to document S/2010/9, which contains the text of a letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

In accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Members of the United Nations confer on the Security Council responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Member States expect the Security Council to meet the challenges before it and to play a bigger role in strengthening international peace and security and in responding to global threats and challenges. At the same time, members strive to promote regional peace and development through the strengthening of regional organizations.

In today's world, regional organizations are playing an increasingly important role in preventing and resolving conflicts, deploying peacekeeping operations, promoting post-conflict reconstruction and easing humanitarian crises. It is of great significance and relevance for the Security Council to hold this thematic debate to explore ways to strengthen the

cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

I now give the floor to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Before I begin, please allow me to say a few words on the devastating earthquake that occurred in Haiti. I thank the members of the Council for their expression of sympathy, condolences and solidarity at this time of need.

(*spoke in French*)

I am deeply grieved by the disaster that has just struck Haiti. This is a tragedy for the people of Haiti and for the United Nations. We are prepared to work together with the international community in order to provide the necessary assistance and aid to the people of Haiti.

(*spoke in English*)

Information on the full extent of the damage remains scant. Initial reconnaissance and aerial assessments have been undertaken. It is clear, however, that the earthquake has had a devastating impact on the capital, Port-au-Prince, and on the western part of the country. The remaining areas of Haiti appear to be largely unaffected.

Buildings and infrastructure were heavily damaged throughout the capital, and basic services such as water and electricity have collapsed almost entirely. The number of dead or injured among the population has yet to be established, although the figure is likely to be in the hundreds or even thousands.

There is no doubt that a major relief effort will be required. I am grateful to those countries that are sending emergency relief and rescue teams. I urge all members of the international community to come to Haiti's aid in this hour of need.

Many of our United Nations colleagues on the ground are, as yet, unaccounted for. The United Nations headquarters at the Christopher Hotel collapsed in the quake. Many people are still trapped inside, including my Special Representative in Haiti, Mr. Hédi Annabi.

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) troops have been working through the night to reach those trapped under the rubble. So far, several badly injured casualties have been retrieved and transported to the MINUSTAH logistics base, which remains largely intact. I have been informed that some of our staff have been confirmed alive and safe, and that some of them have been transported to hospital. I will dispatch Assistant Secretary-General and former Special Representative of the Secretary-General to MINUSTAH, Mr. Edmond Mulet, to Haiti as soon as possible.

MINUSTAH has around 3,000 troops and police in and around Port-au-Prince to help maintain order and assist in relief efforts. MINUSTAH engineers have also begun clearing some of the main roads in Port-au-Prince, which will allow assistance and rescuers to reach those in need. We will immediately release $10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund.

The Secretariat is following the situation closely. A more detailed briefing will be provided to the Security Council at the earliest opportunity. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the countries that have expressed their willingness and have already taken action to dispatch rescue teams and relief materials.

Turning to the item on the Council's agenda, I thank the Chinese presidency of the Security Council for its initiative to hold a debate on a topic that is so vital to international peace and security.

Hardly a crisis confronts us that does not require actors to cooperate at multiple levels — local, national, regional and global — in the search for solutions. That is why the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations is so important. Those organizations are part of a new landscape, one in which the problems we face are so complex and interlinked that no one can work in isolation and no one can afford to do without the benefits of cooperation and burden-sharing.

Around the table today are representatives of many of the key partners of the United Nations. Over the past two days, we had a very productive retreat. We discussed ongoing operations and we explored due avenues for cooperation. Throughout, there was a very strong sense that we are only beginning to realize the great potential of what we can do together.

As members know, the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security was written into the founding Charter of

our Organization. Chapter VIII foresaw a world in which regional organizations and the United Nations would work together on all continents, consistent with the principles of the Charter, to prevent, manage and resolve crises. By its actions over the years, the Council has made ample use of its authority to engage in global and regional partnerships, yet we can and must go further still.

The United Nations continues to bolster its capacity to prevent conflicts and mediate solutions. We continue to improve our ability to deploy more effective peacekeeping, peacebuilding and humanitarian presences. These investments have positioned us to be a better partner to our regional counterparts.

In Africa, we are cooperating closely with the African Union and the subregional economic communities. We have worked hard to provide support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and to assist the Somali parties on the political and security fronts. In the Sudan, we are engaged in joint mediation and peacekeeping roles in Darfur, in improving the safety and access of humanitarian workers, and in assisting in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Our collective efforts also extend to the crises in Guinea, Kenya and Mauritania, and to the 10-year capacity-building programme.

In Europe, we will continue to develop our wide-ranging relationship with the European Union and with such partners as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the Balkans and elsewhere.

In the Americas, we have a strong history of cooperation with regional and subregional bodies on Haiti and Honduras, and more recently on climate change and in combating organized crime.

In the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, we are working together on issues as varied as Afghanistan, Iraq, Fiji, disaster relief and drug trafficking, and on building up the capacities of such regional partners as the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Of course, in these agendas on all these many fronts, our aim is to achieve greater flexibility and to make the best possible use of each partner's comparative advantages.

This week's retreat with the heads of international and regional organizations has given us both food for thought and specific ideas for strengthening our cooperation. We identified areas in which there is room for improvement, including coordination and communication among our respective intergovernmental bodies and secretariats. We talked about the need for better clarity in mediation arrangements. We agreed that peacekeeping deployments need to strike the right balance between flexibility and efficiency. We stressed the importance of ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need in a timely manner and in accordance with existing principles. And we agreed to increase cooperation on peacebuilding.

In all of these areas, the political will of Member States will be crucial. Coordination is not an end in itself. Our success will be measured not in terms of process or mechanisms, but in real improvements in the lives of those most in need. We are all accountable for delivering on that responsibility.

I look forward to continuing to strengthen the ties with regional, subregional and other organizations as a crucial element in our work for a safer, better future for all.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind speakers to limit their statements to no more than seven minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing in the Chamber and to deliver a condensed version when speaking.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Moussa (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to express our deep condolences in the wake of the tragedy in Haiti. We send our condolences to the families of all victims. We also wish to praise the work of the United Nations in that country and commend those who have been killed performing humanitarian work.

Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your accession to the presidency of the Security Council this month. We are certain that, with your Chinese wisdom and expertise, you will ensure the success of the

Council's work. One demonstration of that is your having convened this meeting and so judiciously chosen the topic of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

I should also like to express my deep gratitude to the Secretary-General, who led a high-level meeting on 11 and 12 January on multilateral cooperation in addressing the crises that threaten peace and security around the world.

I turn now to the issue that brings us here today. First, the United Nations works with regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter, but their cooperation is also determined by the state of international and regional affairs and by huge problems therein, requiring more effective cooperation among the Organization's organs, programmes, funds and specialized agencies and the regional organizations that make up the multilateral architecture.

Secondly, Chapter VIII, which governs this cooperation, could benefit from more in-depth interpretation based on experience in and lessons learned from the cooperation that has already been undertaken between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Such interpretation should assist us in remedying shortfalls, because certain provisions of Chapter VIII foresee just such cooperation and because the role of regional organizations has grown to unprecedented proportions.

The important point that I wish to stress is that any decision to enhance the efficacy of cooperation must allow regional and subregional organizations to commit themselves, under Chapter VIII, to following certain specific and agreed rules and procedures. We must also accord due importance to continuous training and heightened efficiency. The problem is that, although we all work within a single structure, which is the United Nations, we do not plan together. As a result, we cannot face the future armed with considered positions of shared responsibility that would ensure the development of coherent policies in addressing crises. I would therefore propose that we review and further develop our interpretation of Chapter VIII.

Thirdly, the concepts governing international action change as life changes. As a result, the Council should address new issues that threaten not only the stability of States, but the international community as a whole. That includes climate change, in which the Council has an important role to play, although we cannot fail to recognize the General Assembly's central role therein as well. We should always coordinate with the General Assembly and support its efforts. I propose that the Security Council add two items to its agendas, one on the impact of climate change on the well-being and stability of the international community, and the other on an assessment of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the impact of the failure to implement certain programmes and goals. The Council, in a spirit of solidarity in response to the needs presented by such challenges, should focus on serious factors that threaten humankind.

Fourthly, another issue worthy of review and consideration is how crises are managed. Contenting ourselves with managing crises instead of courageously solving them gives rise to a great number of questions as to how effective crisis management really can be. In many instances on the ground, crises that are managed in fact persist.

We should also focus on the role of the Security Council, given the increasing number of issues related to international peace. Attempts have been made to prevent the Council from playing its central role. The international multilateral system that we seek to promote needs the Council's leadership. The Council can play the role of ensuring respect for the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law. If the Security Council wishes to restore its legal, moral and political authority, it must extensively assess situations in which violations of international law and the challenges to the Charter are ignored. Multilateral action should focus on resolving rather than on merely managing crises.

It is time to be frank and more transparent with regard to the parties involved in various crises. That would be more acceptable and could lighten the load of the regional and subregional organizations that are forced to bear the burden of such crises. It would enable regional and subregional organizations to focus more on growth and sustainable development and on building modern civil societies so that the world can become more democratic, more balanced and more tolerant.

Fifthly, multilateral action requires us to recognize that such action affects the United Nations and all organizations working in that vast domain, including regional organizations. Thus, it is essential

that the various organizations involved in the different crises that arise act in a joint and integrated manner. Concerned parties should not be asked to participate in isolation from one other. Regional organizations should not be called on to work in one area yet be excluded by narrow interests from working in others. I therefore call for agreed working methods or a code of conduct to govern relations between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

Sixthly, the League of Arab States has effective cooperation agreements with the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Common Market of the South, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The Arab League plays an important role in addressing many of the major problems in the Near East and Africa, such as in Yemen, the Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Mauritania and other countries, in addition to its role in development, socio-economic matters and the strengthening of democracy. We must not forget that the basic document developing a balanced vision of Israeli-Arab peace came from the Arab League.

In that regard, it must be stressed that the League of Arab States has strengthened its cooperation with the African Union. Similarly, the solution to the Darfur crisis, which came from the African Union, is to be implemented by League of Arab States. The establishment by the Arab League of institutional structures, such as the Arab Peace and Security Council, to address issues concerning the maintenance of regional peace and security also gave rise to cooperation in all areas with the African Union so as to further coordination between those emerging structures and the African Peace and Security Council in the area of peacekeeping.

Lastly, I would like to state that a cooperation and coordination mechanism should be established among the various multilateral bodies, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to address all these issues. In that regard, I call for a group similar to the Group of Twenty to be set up that would bring together the United Nations and regional and other international organizations so as to effectively relaunch multilateral coordination.

I would also like to propose that such a mechanism be presided over by the Secretary-General and that its members be chosen from various United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and UNICEF, as well as specialized agencies such as UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Labour Organization. This is important because the international agenda comprises a wide variety of issues, including the conflict of civilizations, the fight against epidemics and the food, water and migration crises, all of which require a fairly comprehensive mechanism.

Apart from those members, the mechanism should include international political and security organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and regional and subregional organizations, such as the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of American States. It should also include the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other bodies. Thus, such a mechanism would have from 20 to 25 members. Apart from providing ongoing coordination, an annual official meeting of the group within the United Nations, presided over by the Secretary-General, could solve problems and effectively relaunch the multilateral system and make it as useful as possible.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Moussa for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.

Mr. Lamamra (*spoke in French*): I would like first to associate the African Union with the words of solidarity and sympathy that the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, expressed for the people and Government of Haiti following the earthquake that has cruelly struck that country. I would also like to express our deepest sympathy to the families of all United Nations colleagues on mission in that country.

I wish to express congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council and to thank you for having organized this debate, the outcome of which should further promote the potential partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in matters of peace and security.

The African Union is all the more happy to participate in this exercise as its special relationship with the United Nations continues to increase in range, effectiveness and ambition. This exercise is thus important and timely. It should open new possibilities for complementarities and synergies so as to maximize the impact of action on the part of the various international actors across the whole range of activities, including conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

It is particularly fortunate that this exercise is taking place today as an extension of the two-day retreat that the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, held with the leaders of regional organizations. The retreat was particularly promising, and its success paves the way for measures that will lay out plans for cooperative work that have been opened by common reflection.

The African Union has made peace and security the first of four pillars on which its strategy and programmes of action are based. The promotion of peace and security is conceived and conducted on the basis of developing doctrine, of operationalizing the architecture and of action by all entities concerned in order to promote the elimination of conflict throughout the African continent. Those three areas of action have all seen far-reaching, mutually reinforcing results that also pave the way for further progress.

Building in that way on the successful cooperation and complementarity between the African Union and the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, the African Union has developed wide-ranging partnerships, such as that which Mr. Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the Arab League, has just described to illustrate the level of coordination between our two organizations. Such African Union partnerships also extend to other friendly organizations, such as the European Union, which is making significant contributions to the funding of a number of our activities. Such consultations and cooperation are also developing with the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Commonwealth, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, NATO, and so forth.

The partnership between the African Union and the United Nations has already produced considerable achievements in various situations and with various operational methods. Ongoing consultations and cooperation adapted to the demands of effectiveness are being developed on the basis of the criterion of comparative advantage and taking due account of all relevant factors.

That strategic partnership has been realized in a symbolic way in the first and only hybrid peacekeeping operation — the AU-UN Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). It has also been demonstrated in an equally significant way through the United Nations logistical support unit to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The partnership is also manifested in the annual consultative meeting between this Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as in the increasingly effective coordination between the leadership of the United Nations Secretariat and that of the African Union Commission.

Cooperation between our organizations raises issues of conception, organization, coordination, harmonizing procedures, streamlining methods, capacity-building and stable and predictable funding of the peacebuilding operations conducted by regional organizations. Some of these issues have been considered in the Prodi report (see S/2008/813) and other studies, whose recommendations we should now begin to implement.

Beyond that, there exists a major challenge in the need for the regional organizations and the universal Organization that is the United Nations to meet on shared values and to develop shared, adequate and effective responses to events and situations about which they sometimes take different positions. That is particularly the case with regard to unconstitutional changes of Government, religious extremism, terrorism — including financing terrorism through ransom payments in cases of hostage-taking — climate change and environmental security, as well as in situations where the regional consensus agenda and decisions made by organizations such as the African Union are not universally supported. That can lead to shortcomings and weaknesses in what should be collective action promoting the complementarities among various international actors.

Beyond the modesty of its approach and the prudence of its tone, Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations has proved very flexible and adaptable

in dealing with new realities that nobody in 1945 could have imagined. That creativity should be encouraged and stimulated so that the United Nations and the regional organizations can together make advantageous and appreciable gains in effectiveness.

The African Union, which has proclaimed 2010 the Year of Peace and Security, will continue to work with regional economic communities throughout the continent, as with all our partners, to ensure that today's discussions honour their promises and have the outcomes they deserve, in the concerted multilateral approaches that will improve the international community's success in the conduct of its civilizational work of building a universally shared peace.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Lamamra for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, who will speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Le Luong Minh: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam — on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

We congratulate China on assuming the presidency of the Council for January 2010. We thank you, Mr. President, and the Chinese delegation for taking the initiative of convening the Council's open debate today on this very important issue.

As they are suffering from the consequences of the tragic earthquake, our hearts go out to the people of Haiti and to all United Nations and other international staff serving in the country, including those with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. We wish them a speedy recovery.

In our ever more complex and interconnected world, marked by an unprecedented level of interdependence and where peace and cooperation for development remain the dominant trend, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is crucial and beneficial not only to safeguarding peace and security but also to development. In such a world, there is a great need to foster a stronger partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in responding to the challenges arising from both traditional and non-traditional security issues.

At the 2005 World Summit, heads of State and Government expressed their resolve to expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations through formalized agreements and, as appropriate, the involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council.

In October 2005, the Council adopted its first resolution on regional organizations, expressing its determination to take appropriate steps to promote cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Since then, the Council has engaged in activities aimed at stepping up such cooperation, culminating in the adoption of resolution 1809 (2008) which, while focusing on specific measures to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, expresses its determination to take effective measures to further enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the Organization.

ASEAN shares belief that there is a need to take stock of all the discussions and activities in this respect with a view to carefully considering the development of an effective mechanism that facilitates the fullest contribution of regional organizations to the work of the United Nations, including the appropriate capacity-building assistance to regional organizations in the performance of their roles.

To further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, ASEAN is convinced of the following.

First, cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security should take advantage of the complementary capacities and comparative advantages of all organizations, making full use of their experience, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the statutes of regional organizations. Indeed, regional organizations can play an important role in promoting and maintaining peace and security in their respective regions, through, inter alia, regional dispute settlement mechanisms. Within ASEAN, for example, we have the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation

in Southeast Asia as such a framework. Such regional dispute settlement arrangements should be complemented by political, financial and physical support from the international community, as appropriate.

Secondly, regional initiatives have flourished in every part of the world, launched at different scales and covering different fields, depending on their regional particularities and needs. Such initiatives encourage dialogue and consultation, reduce misunderstanding and create channels for cooperative projects. International organizations, including United Nations agencies, should work with these initiatives, strengthen their regional capacities and encourage mutual learning.

Thirdly, enhancing information exchange, delineating clear areas of responsibility, respecting local ownership of any arrangement for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, and ensuring their full implementation are also important conditions for fostering effective partnerships.

As an important mechanism for strengthening peace, friendship and cooperation in South-East Asia, ASEAN has attached great importance to fostering its institutional framework. A historic milestone was reached in the evolution of ASEAN when its charter entered into force in December 2008. Besides giving ASEAN a legal personality, the charter will enhance its institutional accountability and decision-making mechanism, and transform ASEAN into a more effective, cohesive and rules-based organization. ASEAN is striving to become, by 2015, a community with three main pillars: political-security, economic and sociocultural. At the ASEAN summit in early 2009, ASEAN leaders adopted a road map for an ASEAN community 2009-2015, which consists of blueprints for realizing goals and targets for all three pillars.

The ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) contributes to promoting peace and security in the wider Asia-Pacific region. The APSC seeks to enhance peace and security through an effective conflict prevention and resolution mechanism and peacekeeping activities. In this context, it is pertinent to have systematic cooperation between ASEAN and its member States and the United Nations system. In the face of strategic gaps in international support to peacebuilding, enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional actors to draw on each others' comparative advantages is key.

ASEAN has worked actively to foster good relationships with other countries and groupings by developing dialogue partnerships with the latter. Within the Asia-Pacific region, ASEAN is at the centre of various important regional organizations, such as the ASEAN+3 process, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), all of which serve to promote a region of peace and stability. In particular, the ASEAN Regional Forum is the primary forum for enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The recently adopted ARF Vision Statement 2020 envisions the ARF developing partnership and networks of cooperation with various security organizations and forums and with international organizations in order to create synergies among them.

ASEAN was granted observer status in the General Assembly on 4 December 2006. The two organizations have also signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation, which provides an important framework for further enhancing ASEAN-United Nations relations and cooperation and allowing ASEAN to make greater contributions to the work of the United Nations and to the promotion of peace, stability and development in the world.

As proudly proclaimed in its charter, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization committed to international cooperation for peace, security, stability, justice and development. With deep gratitude for all the assistance, partnership and cooperation rendered to ASEAN over the years, all of us in ASEAN share the determination to work with each other, with other countries and with organizations like the United Nations to solve the many problems presently faced by the world and advance the cause of international peace, security and development.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Le Luong Minh for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Nikolai Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Mr. Bordyuzha (*spoke in Russian*): My first words will be those of sympathy and solidarity regarding the earthquake in Haiti.

Today's meeting, at which we are considering the very topical issue of cooperation between the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, is of major importance. The role of the United Nations in developing cooperation is aligned with the needs and interests of regional and subregional structures as they respond to the challenges and threats before the international community.

For our part, we support any initiative aimed at strengthening international stability and improving the security architecture, particularly in the Eurasian area, and we are ready to take part in implementing United Nations resolutions aimed at addressing these problems. We view the development of cooperation with the United Nations as particularly important, which is why we are working towards the adoption of a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The CSTO was set up in 2002 following an upsurge in terrorism, and we are doing our utmost to ensure lasting security in our area of responsibility. In recent times, the leaders of our countries decided to set up an effective anti-crisis capacity for the CSTO. Higher echelons of our armed forces, law enforcement agencies and ministries of emergency affairs have established a collective operational response force to end local and border wars and counteract organized crime, including drug trafficking, and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters.

We are currently implementing a collective CSTO peacekeeping force, the intergovernmental agreements on which have been ratified by an overwhelming majority of member States and have entered into force. In accordance with those documents, it has been established that the CSTO can implement peacekeeping operations both autonomously and as part of peacekeeping operations under a Security Council mandate.

For many years the CSTO has participated in the high-level meetings organized annually by the United Nations Secretary-General with heads of international and regional organizations, during which issues of coordinating efforts on urgent contemporary problems are reviewed. We are part of the standing committee set up to promote those links. Further work by that body would be welcome by all organizations interested in supporting the United Nations and improving the coordination of activities.

Counter-terrorism activities, the fight against the illegal production of and trafficking in drugs, suppressing the illegal arms trade and organized cross-border crime and preventing and mitigating emergency situations — that is far from being a full list of the efforts to ensure regional and international security. We believe coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations and cooperation among the organizations themselves must be strengthened.

Among the success in the CSTO experience we can mention our cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which includes exchange of information and participation in the CSTO interdiction operation "Channel", aimed at fighting the drugs trade. In 2009 that operation brought together antinarcotics bodies of CSTO member States and representatives of law enforcement agencies of another 14 States, including Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Germany, Venezuela, Poland, the United States, Turkey and many other countries, in addition to a number of international organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and divisions of the financial intelligence services of member States of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism. Coordinated actions by States allowed us to seize more than one hundred tons of drugs in the course of two stages of the operation. In all, through operation Channel antinarcotics departments have seized 220 tons of drugs since 2003.

The Channel operation and assistance of CSTO member States for transport of goods for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan are examples of effective cooperation of CSTO member States in the area of counteracting the threats to security arising in the territory of Afghanistan. In our view, the task of coordinating our approach and developing and implementing agreed lines on Afghanistan by all international players, who are not indifferent to the future of that country, is a very urgent matter.

Recognizing that need, in March 2009 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference on Afghanistan, we suggested a special working meeting with the participation of all interested parties: Afghanistan, the main transit and consumer countries

and specialized international agencies, including the close partners of CSTO — the Commonwealth of Independent States, SCO and OSCE. In that meeting we could coordinate our efforts and develop a concrete programme of joint efforts to create and strengthen an antinarcotic and financial security zone around Afghanistan.

The main activity of CSTO in the fight against terrorism is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The CSTO 2008-2012 plan for collective measures by its member States to implement that Strategy provides a range of organizational, normative and practical measures aimed at increasing the level of coordination of its member States' activities in countering terrorism and political and religious extremism. Clearly, it would be advisable to hold a review conference to assess the status of implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy both by individual States and by intergovernmental bodies.

Our participation in international efforts to reduce tension is also shown by CSTO's operation "Illegal Alien", which focused on coordinating methods to identify criminal gangs involved in illegal migration and human trafficking. Contacts on those issues with the International Migration Organization, OSCE, the European Union and the International Committee of the Red Cross have made it possible to increase the effectiveness of those measures.

In concluding I wish to point out that every day we see that individual efforts cannot cope with the tasks in the area of ensuring security. In that regard, we advocate gradual development of equitable and constructive cooperation among regional organizations and intensification of their contacts with the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Bordyuzha for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations.

Mr. Serrano: This is a day of deep grief. On behalf of the European Union (EU) I wish to convey heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Haiti, to the Governments of the countries that have suffered casualties and to all the families affected. The European Union and its member States are already actively involved in rescue and relief efforts. We are hopeful that our dear friend Hédi Annabi and members of his staff will be rescued. I reiterate the full support of the European Union for the Secretary-General in this difficult moment.

Let me start by thanking you, Mr. President, for inviting the European Union to this important debate. I also wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the retreat just completed, which allowed for very good exchanges.

The challenges facing the international community — poverty, conflict, terrorism, non-proliferation, climate change — are closely interlinked and of a magnitude that requires collective action. This is why the United Nations is at the centre of the European Union's international engagement. It was already recognized in the European Security Strategy and is now enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. The close cooperation of the European Union and its member States with and within the United Nations is a powerful reality.

The European Union is working intensely with the Secretary-General and with the Security Council to support the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and relevant Security Council decisions, including resolution 1631 (2005). Currently, the European Union is conducting 11 crisis management operations and is working together with the United Nations in eight major crisis theatres in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan. It reports to the Security Council regularly on three of those operations. It has succeeded United Nations peacekeeping operations in a number of crisis areas and is contributing to the final stabilization of the Balkans after the terrible wars of the 1990s. Ultimately, that will be achieved by the integration of that region into the European Union, an objective to which the EU remains firmly committed.

These European contributions have helped the United Nations to concentrate its efforts in other areas, particularly in Africa, but here as well the European Union maintains a high level of engagement. In the past, the European Union has deployed two military operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the United Nations Organization Mission there and is currently working with the United Nations and the Congolese Government in the reform of its

security sector. The European Union has assisted the African Union (AU) in Darfur and deployed an operation in Chad at the request of the United Nations, an operation now replaced by the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

The European Union is working very closely with the United Nations and the African Union to contribute to a peaceful solution to the Somali crisis. The European Union is assisting in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia with its naval Operation Atalanta, cooperating with many naval forces of other United Nations Member States. Atalanta is providing escorts to United Nations chartered vessels that bring to Mogadishu technical support and humanitarian aid. Furthermore, the EU is assisting the Transitional Federal Government in the development of its security forces and is supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Besides its engagement on the ground, the European Union is also ready to contribute to the ongoing development of a forward-looking agenda for United Nations peacekeeping that reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders and, in view of that, welcomes the New Horizon initiative launched by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

The European Union has 15 special representatives and envoys who work together with their United Nations, AU and other international counterparts in negotiation processes and conflict prevention endeavours. The European Union is also actively supporting State-building efforts, including in the field of security sector reform, and broader efforts to promote democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law. Through European Commission-Humanitarian Aid — ECHO — it is a main provider of humanitarian assistance. A network of 135 EU delegations in third countries and at multilateral organizations constitutes the institutional backbone of all these efforts.

The European Union is working with partners within the United Nations to protect civilians and guarantee respect for human rights, to fight terrorism more effectively and to ensure that the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy takes place in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.

The EU remains aware of the multidimensional nature of security when dealing with other important challenges. On climate change, the European Union has set for itself ambitious targets, including in terms of international assistance. The initial political agreement reached in Copenhagen must now be translated into firm obligations and followed by effective implementation. We cannot afford to fail.

On development, the combined assistance of the European Union and its member States amounts to approximately 60 per cent of international aid. We will examine later this year at the highest level progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. We are not on track. The European Union will engage energetically with all United Nations Member States and main actors, under the guidance of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in order to ensure that this opportunity to redouble our collective efforts is not lost.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the European Union's strong support for the regional integration agenda as a favoured means to achieve economic growth and peace. The European Union has developed regional strategies in partnership with all world regions, in full respect of the principle of ownership. Regional organizations play a leading role in the implementation of the substantial funds allocated by the European Union in this context.

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership adopted by heads of State or Government in December 2007 deserves special mention. It covers all fields of economic and political cooperation. It reveals an untapped potential for developing further triangular regional cooperation involving the United Nations. A genuine trilateral relationship among the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union is already in the making.

The Lisbon Treaty has simplified the international representation of the European Union and given it continuity. The creation of an External Action Service under the leadership of High Representative Catherine Ashton will help to enhance the strategic direction, coherence and effectiveness of the European foreign policy. It will also help the EU improve its cooperation with international partners, and in particular the United Nations. We look forward to working with United Nations Members and the United Nations Secretariat to ensure that the new European Union structures will work efficiently within the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Serrano for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Claudio Bisogniero, Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Bisogniero: Let me first of all express my condolences to the Government and the people of Haiti, and to other affected nations and organizations, on the tragic losses caused by yesterday's devastating earthquake.

It is a pleasure to address this distinguished gathering on behalf of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Zhang Yesui of China, for his invitation.

This meeting is another demonstration of a fundamental change in the way we think about the role of international organizations and institutions. In the contemporary international security environment, we are increasingly aware that institutions can no longer work in isolation from one another and that the key to meeting today's security challenges lies in building new ties among them. NATO is actively promoting such closer ties, because it is our firm belief that bringing military and civilian means closer together is absolutely vital to preventing, addressing and resolving crises and conflicts.

Afghanistan offers us a compelling example. In that country, NATO is leading the United Nations-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operation. But this is not a NATO operation alone. It is set within a political framework that is determined by the wider international community. And in addition to the Alliance's own 28 member States, all of which are present in ISAF, we now have 16 troop-contributing nations that are not NATO members, some of them located halfway around the world; they make this a true joint commitment by the international community.

ISAF's military presence is indispensable. Yet we are all acutely aware that there is no purely military solution to the problems in Afghanistan. Ultimately, the key to success will be increased interaction among military efforts, civilian interventions and improved governance. This will require the Alliance's increased cooperation with the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and other international actors, but also with non-governmental organizations and even the private sector. And this can be achieved only if all actors actively coordinate their efforts. In that regard, let me underline that we see the main coordinating role of those international efforts lying clearly with the United Nations.

NATO has made some encouraging progress in contributing to such international coordination. Not long ago, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and NATO signed a joint declaration, which sets out a number of areas for closer cooperation. NATO and the European Union are also working more closely together, not just in the Balkans and in Afghanistan, but also in their respective efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. We have worked with the World Bank on several projects in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Since 2005, NATO has also been cooperating with the African Union (AU), at its request, both by providing logistical support to AU-led operations and by providing some technical assistance to the African Standby Force concept and planning.

But we all need to do more. For instance, with a few exceptions, the various international actors engaged in peace operations still do not train together, do not really plan together and are not really joined up in the field. In short, our efforts are much too fragmented. Ending this fragmentation will require a profound cultural change from regional organizations engaged in peace and security. What we need is what we in NATO have come to label a comprehensive approach, and what the United Nations calls an integrated approach. But in the end, we all mean the same thing: institutions complementing and reinforcing one another's efforts in order to prevent or resolve crisis and conflict. And I can assure Council members that, in our current work on NATO's new Strategic Concept, we are giving the comprehensive approach the prominent place that it deserves.

If we are serious about implementing the comprehensive approach, we must consider innovative steps. NATO has been a strong proponent of mutual liaison arrangements, especially with the United Nations, to smooth our day-to-day cooperation. We could also imagine a pool of liaison officers from various international institutions here at United Nations Headquarters — and if needed, on a case by case basis, also at NATO Headquarters — to enable better cross-coordination.

We could also explore staff exchanges, particularly of senior staff who will be working with representatives from the other institution, either in the field or at Headquarters. All of that is to say that there are many practical ways to encourage more structured and effective cooperation between us.

In the past, a lack of strategic dialogue has often prevented us from examining common challenges and formulating common responses, leaving this to the working level to sort out. That is why today's discussion and yesterday's United Nations retreat are most welcome initiatives to pursue the strategic dialogue that so far has been missing.

We all know that it will not be easy to end the fragmentation between our institutions. We each have different structures, procedures and working cultures. But there is simply no alternative to much closer cooperation. Our meeting here today clearly demonstrates that the international community is rising to the challenge. So let me conclude by once again thanking the Chinese presidency of the Security Council for hosting today's remarkable event.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Bisogniero for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States.

Mr. Frontaura (*spoke in Spanish*): Permit me at the outset to express our deep condolences and concern with respect to yesterday's catastrophic earthquake in the sister Republic of Haiti, a State member of the Organization of American States (OAS). Yesterday, OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza issued a press release that conveyed his condolences to Haitian families and of the staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. It also expressed the willingness of the Organization of American States to immediately begin a cooperation and assistance effort for that sisterly country. Indeed, the OAS Permanent Council is meeting today in Washington, D.C., to discuss the matter and determine the best way to help in some way to alleviate the difficulties being experienced by the Haitian members of our family.

Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, and to express our gratitude for your initiative to hold this dialogue between the Council and reg organizations.

The possibilities for international cooperati prevent and manage crises — and, more broadly the maintenance of peace and security — have g in recent years as the result of the conclusio agreements that allow for mediation and cooperati cases of conflicts between States as well as in ma pertaining to internal situations in States. T agreements cover such areas as human rights, to and, as is the case in Europe and America, oversig the democratic system.

The distinction between inter- and intra- conflicts is crucial when we talk about peace security, the management of crises and the instrum that make it possible for international bodies to because the guiding norms and options for actio different in each case. The principles non-intervention, the legal equality of States, peaceful resolution of disputes, collective self-def in cases of aggression, respect for fundamental hu rights and the promotion and strengthening representative democracy are enshrined in toc prevailing basic norms.

The main legal instruments at the disposal o Organization of American States in that regard are OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democ Charter. Our organization's Charter enshrines the p provisions that allow the organization to take actio the event of conflicts between States. Although o instruments also exist, such as the Amer Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-Amer Convention against Corruption, they deal with ma already addressed by the OAS Charter. Nevertheles is worth pointing out that the American Convention Human Rights set up the Inter-American Court Human Rights, whose decisions are binding signatory States. Those instruments are in constant An assessment of some recent problems allows u evaluate the potential and limitations of t implementation.

When it comes to the norms governing inter-S conflicts — except when it comes to cases of o conflict or when a dispute is considered to threa peace on the continent — the prevailing norm in inter-American system is that bilateral matters can taken up by the organization only when they referred by the States involved in the confl

Generally, States inform the organization of the emergence of conflicts among them. However, that information is insufficient to launch any mechanism. Of the inter-State conflicts dealt with by the OAS, two bear mentioning: the border dispute between Belize and Guatemala and the crisis provoked by the bombing by Colombian planes of a clandestine camp on Ecuadorian territory of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia on 1 March 2008.

The first of those matters was submitted by both countries for the mediation of the OAS Secretary General, who almost two years ago suggested that the border dispute be put before the International Court of Justice. That suggestion, which was accepted by the Governments of both countries, is currently being approved in the context of the domestic legal frameworks of the respective countries.

In the second matter, the crisis on Ecuadorian territory broke out suddenly, illustrating the fact that not all crises can be predicted. Despite the high level of conflict in the border area, neither the Government of Ecuador nor any other international body or specialist foresaw that crisis. That international crisis, which involved the use of armed force by one member State against another, threatened international peace and security. Faced with such a crisis situation, the organization nevertheless had at its disposal the necessary instruments to address it through the speedy convening of a meeting at the ministerial level at which an agreement was reached that made it possible for us to at least ensure that no new action would be taken and that the conflict would not escalate. At the same time, our Secretary General was charged with carrying out good offices which ultimately led to the re-establishment of relations between the two countries at the level of charges d'affaires and to the formulation of a road map to fully restore trust between the two States.

With regard to the issue of democracy, the OAS has at its disposal the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Here, I should like to highlight two cases that, in a way, illustrate our organization's capacity to act and how we can expand cooperation between regional organizations.

In the case of Honduras, to which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon referred, the weeks preceding the removal of President Zelaya enabled us take stock of the great risk to that country's institutional stability. Nevertheless, in line with its own provisions, the OAS Charter could not be applied without the consent of the Government concerned. It was only on Friday, 26 June — two days before the coup d'état — that the Government made that request. As a result, the OAS Permanent Council was convened, which decided to deploy an urgent mission led by our Secretary General. The mission was to travel on 29 June, but the coup took place on Sunday, 28 June. It was therefore not possible to prevent the use of force. It is still an open question whether it could have been prevented had the OAS mission reached Tegucigalpa on Saturday, 27 June, and had the request of the Government of Honduras to postpone the mission's arrival until Monday, 29 June, not been sent.

In order to better illustrate these limitations, it is useful to refer to other cases which, in contrast to that of Honduras, were successfully prevented. First, in the case of Nicaragua, it was possible to avert a parliamentary decision to remove the President. In accordance with articles 17 and 18 of the OAS Charter, the Government of Nicaraguan President Bolaños requested that a special OAS mission look into the matter. The mission lasted for several months, during which a crisis could have taken place at any time. Although, unfortunately, we do not have sufficient tools to prevent crises, in this case we were ultimately successful. The Government served out its term and the elections in Nicaragua took place successfully under OAS observation.

A similar situation transpired in Bolivia, where on several occasions the country has gone to the very edge of confrontation owing to the profound political and social changes taking place in that country. Nevertheless, the Government of President of Evo Morales opted to turn to the Democratic Charter. Although few people are aware of it, the OAS missions that have visited Bolivia have done so at the request of the Government under the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which provides that a Government can request a special OAS mission when it believes that democracy is under serious threat. We were there throughout the entire process of drafting a new constitution, including its adoption and enactment and the elections of last December.

I believe that the experience gained over the years provides various lessons that will surely be considered by member States with a view to improving the capacity of the OAS to act, both with regard to

conflicts between States and those that take place within States as a result of problems of a political nature.

It is not merely desirable, but absolutely necessary that there be cooperation between international, regional and subregional organizations in order to achieve and strengthen international peace and security. That cooperation should be based both on comparative advantages and, in particular, on the respective mandates of each organization. It is also necessary that we take institutional capacity into account, as well as knowledge of, and presence on, the ground.

We have had fruitful cooperation with the United Nations — in Haiti, as the Secretary-General has mentioned, but also in other places, such as Honduras. We are completely open to expanding and deepening that cooperation. A dialogue such as today's is of course helpful to that end. We also believe that dialogue both between Secretaries-General and at the secondary and tertiary levels will contribute to making that cooperation ever more effective while also avoiding duplication of effort.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Frontaura for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. İhsanoğlu: Allow me first to express our sympathy and condolences to the people of Haiti and the affected United Nations staff. We hope that the calls made here for international solidarity will help those people.

At the outset, I would like, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to express our gratitude to the Chinese delegation for having taken the initiative of organizing this debate. I think it is very timely and that the decision was a very wise one.

I would also like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his participation in our debate and to express our appreciation to him for the pertinent and timely initiative of organizing a retreat for the heads of regional organizations, which was held over the past two days. The retreat proved to be a good occasion for participants to get acquainted with one another and exchange views and ideas that enriched our knowl on many important issues. I can say that the p we have has been shown in a very important wa glad to say that the OIC will increase its coopera this framework.

The new OIC Charter, adopted in 2008, s the importance of all member States adhering principles of the maintenance of international and security and of respecting the national sover independence and territorial integrity of other m States. An OIC road map document entitled "Te Programme of Action", adopted in December which parallels the Millennium Development Go a document that we consider to be a blueprint reform promoting moderation and modernization Muslim world. It calls for strengthening OIC ac in conflict prevention, confidence-bui peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-c rehabilitation in cooperation with internationa regional organizations.

Many of the issues on the Security C agenda relate to the Islamic world, and the O naturally seized of them. This fact demonstrate importance of having strong links of cooperation coordination between the Security Council and the in order to benefit from both global and approaches of addressing these issues. This is a more important when we consider the fact that so the top contributors to United Nations peacekee operations are OIC member States. This experien an asset from which the OIC could benefi appropriate situations in the future.

While the OIC, with its 57 member countrie five observer States, is so far not into peacekee operations as such, a resolution adopted at its recent ministerial meeting, held in May 2009, o the door for possible activities in a number of re areas. That resolution called for an intergovernm expert group to study a concept paper prepared by OIC secretariat on the future role of the OIC in maintenance of peace and security, peacekeeping conflict resolution.

The start of the ministerial and expert-l debate on capacity-building for peace and sec aspects within the OIC has certainly enriched the OIC reform agenda, which already includes impo steps, such as the establishment of an indepen human rights commission and an internati

conflict prone and humanitarian affairs department. These steps also indicate our understanding of the importance of socio-economic development, human rights and humanitarian assistance in promoting peace and security.

The OIC has recently played an important role in Iraq and succeeded in putting an end to the sectarian strife between the Sunni and Shiite factions of Iraqi society in 2006. This intervention has proven to be instrumental in reducing the wave of killings that took the lives of thousands of Iraqi people. Its success can be measured by the fact that OIC intervention has helped eliminate the religious factor from the conflict in Iraq. Through our office in Baghdad, we intend to follow up on our initiative.

From the point of view of a new vision and sense of responsibility that require the OIC to assume wider and more proactive roles in dealing with challenges and crises affecting the Muslim world, we are in the midst of devising similar approaches for Somalia and Afghanistan, which would take into account the potential comparative advantages and cultural affinity of the OIC. As a matter of fact, in the 1980s, the OIC was called upon to address the crisis of civil war in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. There, the OIC managed to mediate among the warring Afghan factions and succeeded in restoring peace and security there.

In Somalia, a founding member of the OIC, we actively participated and contributed to the negotiation process that led to the signing of the Djibouti Agreement and formation of the Transitional Government. I believe that the hosting of the most recent meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, at OIC headquarters was quite significant in terms of exhibiting our sense of responsibility in assuming a wider role in ensuring peace and security in Somalia. Very soon, we will be opening a humanitarian mission in Mogadishu, which will in time be transformed into a full-fledged office.

Over the past decade, the OIC has focused its activities on eradicating the root causes of the terrorism that had plagued some areas of the Muslim world. We had to use local methods to destroy the doctrinal infrastructure of terrorism that was based on a totally erroneous and falsely manipulated interpretation of the teaching of Islam. The OIC Academy of Jurisprudence has managed to expose this malignant scheme and to reveal its deceitful purposes. This effort has helped in alerting young people to the fallacy of the claims of the extremists and has consequently dealt a hard blow to their activities and greatly reduced their heinous crimes.

This method of dealing with such a scourge has proven that a global problem can be solved by local remedies combined with coordination with the Security Council. Past experience has shown that combating terrorism through military means alone has not yielded convincing results. Resorting to military measures means attacking the symptom rather than curing the disease. In retrospect, we should analyse in all frankness what has been achieved by the war on terror in recent years to see whether we made any progress in curing the disease or if we caused a kind of transformation and further spread of the virus.

In this context, I would like to emphasize that the best way to tackle the terrorism phenomenon lies with efforts to eliminate the root causes of terrorism. This approach means starting with establishing channels of communication with the influential and patriotic representatives of a given society plagued by terrorism with a view to gaining them to our side by offering them appropriate incentives and to convincing them to try to move from the extreme and periphery to the middle ground. At the same time, the most radical and hard core extremist elements, should be marginalized and isolated. When this is achieved it will be easier to gradually move to create new facts conducive to bringing about lasting and durable peace and security. This approach might prove particularly pertinent in the parts of the Muslim world where radicalism is considered to be on the rise.

Similarly, the OIC believes that tackling conflicts solely from the angle of security cannot lead to lasting and comprehensive solutions. Short-term solutions must give way to mid- and long-term approaches requiring a proper understanding of the root causes of the conflicts, which often lie in political grievances, backwardness, underdevelopment, a lack of good governance and human rights, and concerns related to the preservation of national, ethnic, cultural and religious identities.

As a mark of its commitment to addressing socio-economic problems that often serve as the root causes of conflicts, the OIC has established a special fund of $10 billion for poverty alleviation in member

States and a special programme for the development of Africa. The forthcoming OIC donors conference on the reconstruction and development of the Darfur region, to be held in March, is a clear case in point.

To conclude, let me reiterate that the OIC will continue to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in every way possible, in cooperation with the United Nations and with other regional and subregional organizations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Ihsanoglu for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk, head of the External Cooperation Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Pavlyuk: Let me join others in expressing sincere condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti at this tragic moment.

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I would like to thank the Chinese presidency and all members of the Security Council for inviting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to this important thematic debate. This is a timely debate and a useful follow-up to the highly stimulating retreat with heads of regional organizations organized by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon over the past two days.

With 56 participating States, the OSCE is the most inclusive security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, recognized since 1993 as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Later this year, the OSCE will mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of its founding document, the Helsinki Final Act, and, with this, of its signature concept of cooperative and comprehensive security, which encompasses the politico-military, economic, environmental and human dimensions.

As a regional organization, the OSCE has been a long-standing partner of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. It contributes to United Nations efforts in two important ways. First, the OSCE actively promotes among its own participating States the ratification of relevant United Nations conventions and the implementation of Security Council resolutions, such as those on combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular resolution 1540 (2004); in some areas, the OSCE adopts additional commitments complementary to those of the United Nations. Secondly, the OSCE complements the work of the United Nations in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, in some cases taking the lead in facilitating the settlement of unresolved conflicts in its region, such as the Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistrian conflicts.

Over the past two years, three issues in particular have tested the OSCE-United Nations partnership in maintaining international peace and security. In Georgia, the OSCE and the United Nations worked together for many years before August 2008 in seeking to promote peaceful conflict resolution and long-term stability. After August 2008, the two organizations underwent in parallel the withdrawal of their field presences. Since October of that year, the OSCE and the United Nations, together with the European Union, have co-chaired of the Geneva discussions. Despite enduring challenges on the ground, we are making progress, due in large part to our close cooperation.

In Kosovo, the OSCE mission has continued to implement its mandate, based on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). It has helped to ensure stability in Kosovo and the continuity of the international presence there after its restructuring.

Beyond the borders of its participating States, the OSCE has been contributing, within its mandate defined by the 2007 Ministerial Council decision in Madrid, to the United Nations-led international effort in assisting Afghanistan. Last year, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights deployed, in close cooperation with the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, an election support team, following up on similar efforts in 2004 and 2005. The OSCE has also focused on enhancing the capacity of Afghanistan to manage its borders with its Central Asian neighbours, including through the training of Afghan personnel, at the OSCE Border Management Staff College opened in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May.

In 2010, the OSCE will continue to work closely with the United Nations on these and many other common challenges, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, transnational threats and challenges, including combating terrorism; economic and environmental

challenges, including energy security and the protection of the Aral Sea; tolerance and non-discrimination; and human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law.

Tomorrow, Secretary of State and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev will address the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in Vienna at which he will formally inaugurate the 2010 OSCE chairmanship of Kazakhstan. In three weeks from now, on 5 February, he will address this body to outline the priorities of the 2010 OSCE Kazakh chairmanship. I believe that this established annual address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office is also of value to the members of the Security Council, as it provides them with first-hand information on the situation in the OSCE area.

The year 2010 is particularly significant for European security, for the OSCE, and for OSCE cooperation with the United Nations. For the first time, the OSCE is chaired by a Central Asian State. Central Asia traditionally has been a region of close OSCE-United Nations cooperation — from addressing the conflict in Tajikistan in the early 1990s to assisting States of the region in addressing their diverse needs today.

This year, the OSCE will take forward the renewed dialogue on the future of European security. The so-called Corfu Process was given strong political impetus by OSCE foreign ministers at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens in December. The ministers also noted with interest the proposal by Kazakhstan to hold an OSCE summit in 2010 and tasked the Permanent Council to engage in exploratory consultations to determine the extent of progress on the OSCE agenda and to inform their decisions.

In line with the ministerial decision on furthering the Corfu Process, the dialogue will also provide an opportunity to review existing mechanisms of cooperation and to examine possibilities for strengthening further the OSCE's relations with the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Cooperative Security. The OSCE remains fully committed to strengthening cooperation with the United Nations and to providing assistance to the Security Council.

Maintaining international peace and security also requires close cooperation and coordination among all organizations at the regional level, as well as the exchange of information and experience between regions. In this spirit, the OSCE maintains active dialogue with its Mediterranean and Asian partners for cooperation — including Japan, currently a member of the Security Council — and last year was particularly happy to welcome Australia as the twelfth partner for cooperation, thereby bringing a new Asia-Pacific perspective to our deliberations. In addition, the OSCE has extensively exchanged experiences with regional organizations in other parts of the world, many of which are represented in this Chamber. Also in that context, the OSCE strongly welcomes this thematic debate.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Pavlyuk for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, who will speak on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Mr. Quinlan: At the outset, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum member States, I would like to extend our condolences to the Government and the people of Haiti and to the families and colleagues of those United Nations personnel who lost their lives in this catastrophe. The Pacific region, of course, is only too well aware of the devastating impacts wrought by natural disasters and of the importance of a quick, coordinated response from Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations, and I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the rapid response of the United Nations. Pacific countries are ready to help where we can, and my own country, Australia, has already begun to respond.

I am speaking today on behalf of the member States of the Pacific Islands Forum. The Secretary-General of the Forum, The Honourable Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade, is also present with me.

As members know, the Pacific is a very large, dispersed geographical region that encompasses some of the world's smallest and most vulnerable nations. The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's pre-eminent intergovernmental organization. It makes a powerful contribution to the peace and security of its own region, and, hence, we welcome this opportunity today to contribute to the Council's consideration of this issue. We would particularly like to thank China for its role in today's initiative.

Mr. President, you rightly note in your concept paper (S/2010/9) that while the United Nations Charter places primary responsibility for the maintenance of international security on the Security Council, it also deliberately recognizes that regional organizations may, in appropriate circumstances, take action to maintain and support peace and security among their member States. In fact, that has inevitably become an important complementary part of the international architecture for peace and security. Where Member States are able to step up to solve their own problems, they clearly should do so. The United Nations role is at the apex, and it must be, but Member States and their organizations clearly have a role in helping themselves to prevent crises, just as much as in responding to them. Better systems for early conflict resolution and better early warning mechanisms on emerging crises can often be more alert and more robust at a regional level. A strong organic relationship with the United Nations at the regional level and with New York is therefore essential in our regional and global architecture.

Since its formation in 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum has worked to develop strong collective responses to regional issues and to promote good governance and democratic principles among its members. In pursuit of those principles, the Forum has developed a significant framework for addressing violent conflict, civil unrest and political crises that may threaten regional peace and security, including the 1997 Aitutaki Declaration and the 2000 Biketawa Declaration.

In the Biketawa Declaration, Forum leaders specifically committed their countries to promoting good governance, individual freedoms and democratic processes and institutions and recognized their responsibility to assist their own member States in times of crisis. They have accepted a clear collective responsibility in doing this. Consistent with the principles elaborated in those Declarations, the Forum has developed an impressive record of taking action to address threats to regional peace and security, including in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Fiji.

The Bougainville peace process was an illustration of successful cooperation between the United Nations and the Forum, with the Council-endorsed Peace Monitoring Group working alongside the United Nations Observer Mission in partnership, and with the Papua New Guinea Government and other Governments in the region to bring peace and stability to Bougainville following nearly 10 years of conflict.

The Forum's Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands has played a critical role in supporting the stabilization and reconstruction of Solomon Islands after a very debilitating ethnic conflict in the late 1990s and throughout the early 2000s. The mission remains in place today.

In Fiji, the Forum has been unwavering in its commitment to the primacy of democratic principles and has sought to work constructively with all parties for the restoration of democratic institutions after the coup. In that regard, the Forum particularly welcomes the Security Council's principled call for an early return to democracy in Fiji.

Of course, the Forum has also begun to address non-traditional security challenges, as it must. Climate change represents an existential threat for a number of Forum members. This is not threat for the future: it is a threat to them today. On 3 June last year, the General Assembly adopted by consensus its historic resolution 63/281, on the link between climate change and security. That resolution invited all relevant organs of the United Nations, including this one, to intensify our efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications.

The subsequent report of the Secretary-General (A/64/350) has further underlined the urgent need for an effective global, regional and national effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change as the best way to minimize its impacts, including its serious security-related consequences. This remains a compelling initiative. The Pacific islands and the Pacific Islands Forum stand ready to work with the Security Council to address all of these challenges.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Quinlan for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Muratbek Sansyzbayevich Imanaliyev, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Mr. Imanaliyev (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), I would like to express our solidarity and empathy with the Government and the people of Haiti with respect to the tragic and unprecedentedly severe earthquake in that country.

I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address this Security Council meeting. At the same time, I have the pleasant task of thanking Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the excellent meeting of leaders of regional international organizations, which successfully concluded yesterday. I am certain that such forums should receive the universal support of countries and multilateral communities. The list of participants for future meetings could certainly be expanded. I believe that it is clear to all that such models for joint work can promote the building of the intellectual and information capacities needed to establish and implement joint projects and programmes that are fruitful and beneficial to all.

Despite its brief historical and chronological biography, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is clearly experiencing dynamic growth as an effective international forum established in order to develop fair and mutually beneficial cooperation among its member States, which are also united by the desire to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the entire Eurasian space.

The States members of our organization have defined the following as their urgent core priorities: ensuring regional security; fighting terrorism, separatism, extremism, illegal drug and weapons trafficking and other forms of transnational crime; assisting in commercial, economic and other forms of cooperation; and bringing peoples together and establishing friendship among them.

In that context, today the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is already playing a considerable role in maintaining peace, security and stability in the region, as well as in establishing the necessary favourable conditions for the sustainable long-term socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian development of the peoples of our countries. At the same time it continues to steadily expand and build on its relations with other international organizations and agencies, including those of the United Nations.

The SCO member States will unquestionably strive to strengthen and develop their organization, permanently enhancing its authority and significance in the world, particularly in conditions under which have emerged such global problems as the world economic and financial crises, environmental issues, terrorism, drug crime and others.

Our contribution to normalizing the situation in Afghanistan is being implemented through the ad hoc SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group. We expressed our deep concern over the threat of terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and organized crime stemming from the instability in Afghanistan at the special conference organized in the framework of SCO last year in the Russian capital, Moscow. Within the international programme to aid Afghanistan, the SCO member States are making effective bilateral contributions by providing economic and humanitarian assistance to that long-suffering nation, including building roads, energy facilities, hospitals and schools.

The overall total of free aid provided by Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States to Afghanistan amounts to $220 million. It is also well known that a number of SCO member States have written off a considerable portion of the external debt they are owed by Afghanistan.

Since the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are based on the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual benefit, equality, respect for diversity of cultures and a desire to bring about joint development, as well as relations with other countries and international organizations, the SCO is developing in accordance with the principles of mutual trust, non-aggression towards all, transparency and openness. That also means that in the future the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be open to establishing diverse contacts and relations, and subsequent mutually beneficial cooperation with other interested countries and international organizations that share our values.

In that context, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization gives importance to partnership with the United Nations, based on the SCO's recognition of the vital role played by the United Nations in today's world, particularly in addressing the aforementioned global challenges and problems. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization also believes there is a need to do everything we can to strengthen this mission of the United Nations.

In conclusion, I would like to note in particular the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session of a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and SCO (resolution 64/183). I can assure the Council that the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will do their utmost to ensure practical implementation of the

provisions of that resolution, to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in relevant areas, and to maintain regional peace and stability in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter.

I believe the adoption of that resolution constitutes recognition of the growing role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in maintaining peace, strengthening security and stability in the region and combating terrorism and extremism, as well as in advancing regional cooperation in such areas as trade, the economy, energy and transportation.

I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your invitation to take part in today's discussion.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Imanaliyev for his statement.

I shall now call on members of the Council.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): Let me begin by conveying our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of Haiti, as well as the United Nations, on the tragic loss of life, casualties and destruction following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Our prayers and solidarity go to the families of the victims.

I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important and timely debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement and to welcome the Deputy Secretary-General, Mrs. Migiro, who is with us in this debate. I also wish to thank the heads and representatives of the regional and subregional organizations for their statements.

This debate gives the Security Council and participating regional and subregional organizations an opportunity to exchange views and focus on how to strengthen their cooperation in maintaining international peace and security. The primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security is vested in the Security Council, but the complexity of the threats to peace and security in various regions of the world is increasing, and the capacity of the United Nations is becoming overstretched. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the partnership in which the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations all have critical roles to play in maintaining international peace and security.

We are convinced that building an effective and strategic relationship has immense benefits. Regional and subregional organizations have a significant contribution to make. They have advantages of local knowledge, proximity and the capability to mobilize and respond quickly. However, some need financial resources and technical capacity to carry out that mission.

The United Nations and other international partners must provide effective, predictable and timely support to regional organizations when they undertake activities and operations mandated by the United Nations, aimed at maintaining international peace and security. The African Union, for instance, has shown its resolve, commitment and capability in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution on the continent. It is working on the comprehensive peace and security architecture, and has underscored the need for its member States to adhere to constitutionalism, democratic governance and the rule of law.

Conflict prevention, mediation and resolution, as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding, are essential and indispensable tools in the maintenance of international peace and security. The effectiveness of these tools is enhanced through closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations. Uganda therefore considers this debate as part of an ongoing process. We recall the constructive debates on strengthening African Union-United Nations cooperation held in March and October last year. It is essential that the Security Council continue to engage and exchange views with regional and subregional organizations on practical ways to strengthen these useful partnerships. We also call for enhancement of regular interaction, coordination and consultation on matters of common interest between the United Nations Secretariat and the respective regional and subregional organizations' secretariats and commissions. This approach will enhance complementarity and minimize the duplication of efforts.

Finally, we thank the delegation of China for preparing the draft presidential statement, which Uganda supports.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to join the Secretary-General and others in expressing the United Kingdom's deep concern for the people of Haiti, as well as for the United Nations staff

who remain unaccounted for, including peacekeeping troops. The world's thoughts are with Haiti in the wake of this devastating earthquake. My Prime Minister has sent a message of sympathy and support to President Préval. The United Kingdom is responding with emergency rescue aid and equipment, and a team is en route to assess the short- and longer-term humanitarian needs. We stand ready to provide whatever further support is needed to help the people of Haiti recover from this tragic event.

I thank you, Sir, for convening today's debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and all of the representatives of regional organizations for their briefings this morning. It has been a valuable opportunity to hear about the deliberations at the Secretary-General's retreat earlier this week.

As we have heard this morning, the United Nations and regional organizations share many common goals. Close cooperation between them can maximize impact, including in some of the most challenging political and security environments in the world today. The Security Council should retain its pre-eminence in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council's cooperation with regional organizations is already good, but in our view there is much more that we can do together in areas such as preventive diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution. I would like to highlight five issues today.

The first is about the European Union (EU), which is already making a major contribution to peace and security around the world. The European Union currently deploys over 3,000 military and over 4,000 civilian personnel in crisis management operations ranging from the Balkans, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the Gulf of Aden. It is also, as Ambassador Serrano pointed out earlier, working with the United Nations in eight major crisis theatres. In 2009, the European Union provided over €400 million in funding for stabilization activities and crisis management missions. The changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty to the EU's external representation will further enhance its international contribution.

Secondly, NATO commands the United Nations-mandated 70,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), which is helping the Afghan Government bring security to the region. We must build on the NATO-United Nations memorandum of understanding of 2008 and further enhance cooperation between ISAF and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The United Nations should be ready to accept NATO's assistance. NATO should be ready to provide it in areas such as security sector reform, as well as military assistance where necessary. NATO brings unrivalled political-military expertise and military capabilities.

Thirdly, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is of vital strategic importance. We have strongly supported the Secretary-General's efforts and those of the African Union to enhance that partnership. Much of the discussion so far has focused on peacekeeping, but in our view it should broaden out to include the scope for joint action to prevent conflict and focus more on peacebuilding. We look forward to further advice from the Secretary-General and to the ongoing work of the AU-United Nations Task Force.

Fourthly, Somalia is an important example of the African Union and the United Nations working together, particularly in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which continues to play a crucial role in allowing space for the Transitional Federal Government to become more effective and broaden its political base. The EU is also contributing significantly in Somalia, leading the Anti-Piracy Task Force and providing €35.5 million of funding for AMISOM.

Lastly, Afghanistan will be a key test for these international partnerships, particularly in the coming period. As I said in the Council last week, we hope that the London Conference on 28 January will reinvigorate international engagement in support of the Afghan Government. The United Nations, NATO, the EU, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other regional organizations will all have important roles to play.

The founding fathers of the United Nations showed great foresight when, in Chapter VIII of the Charter, they highlighted the role to be played by regional organizations. But I suspect that even they would be a little bewildered today by the scale and variety of cooperation. Our responsibility in the Council is to set the strategic direction for that cooperation, focusing our efforts on the biggest challenges, which include Afghanistan and Somalia, but also looking to the future and to a more cohesive

view of international cooperation, covering the full conflict cycle.

In conclusion, we support the draft presidential statement that the delegation of China has put together.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Once again, tragedy has struck Haiti. As we all know, that unfortunate nation has suffered for many years, and it has required the support of the international community time and again in order to lay the foundation for its development, as the Council noted when it travelled to Haiti in March 2009. We extend our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Haiti and to all those Governments whose nationals have been affected on the ground, personnel from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, other United Nations agencies and other organizations present in the country.

The Government of President Calderón took immediate decisions in coordination with the Government of Haiti, and a group of experts and consultants comprised of doctors specializing in treating injuries caused by collapsed structures, search and rescue specialists, experts in damage assessment and emergency administration is travelling to Port-au-Prince to determine, in support of the Government of Haiti, specifically what kind of help will be needed. The President and the Government of Mexico have also been in contact with other Governments in order to provide the necessary coordination of aid that will need to be given to Haiti.

We welcome the decision taken by the Chinese delegation to select such a relevant subject for this thematic debate of the Security Council. Indeed, this meeting follows up on discussion promoted by Mexico in April 2003 during its previous membership as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. We welcome the representatives of the regional and subregional organizations who have joined us in this meeting today. We welcome this opportunity to have an exchange of views on the way in which we can define a consistent format for cooperation between the United Nations and various regional and subregional organizations working in the area of peace and security.

The founders of the United Nations had the vision to identify the advantages of a close relationship between the new Organization and the so-called regional and subregional arrangements with regard both to the pacific settlement of disputes and to the implementation of coercive measures, according to the cases and procedures provided for in the Charter of the United Nations itself. It is important that we remember that.

We should also remember that at that point in time the countries of Latin America played a significant role in promoting this vision, which had emanated from the Chapultepec Conference in Mexico that took place prior to the San Francisco Conference.

I would note that my delegation considers that, despite recent significant developments, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations has yet to reach its full potential and should be substantially strengthened.

Joint action by the United Nations and the African Union in Burundi, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, along with that carried out together with the European Union in Chad, Congo and the Sudan and with the Organization of American States in Haiti, provides convincing evidence of the contribution of regional organizations in the Security Council's efforts to maintain international peace and security. An important component of cooperation between the United Nations and those organizations may be seen in cases where we need to ensure the maintenance of peace through joint or hybrid missions such as the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). There, as in other cases, the human and material resources that regional organizations can provide, given the necessary mandate and capacity, have proven to offer an appropriate and effective option.

We must analyse these experiences and lessons learned in order to promote greater coherence within the Security Council, permitting due coordination and the adoption of decisions jointly with regional organizations, in particular the African Union. My delegation considers that initiatives by regional and subregional organizations in the early stages of a conflict, making use of early warning and prevention mechanisms, can be decisive in avoiding the need for larger-scale action by the broader international community. In particular, the ability of those organizations to promote the peaceful settlement of

disputes through mediation and other means has clearly proven effective and important.

The same can be said of the peacebuilding and national reconstruction phase, when regional and subregional organizations are called upon to play a fundamental role in building stability and preventing a new spiral of violence. Regional organizations' in-depth knowledge of the underlying causes of local conflicts and other security challenges gives them a comparative advantage vis-à-vis actors from outside the region. In all cases, the promotion of economic and social development is an indispensable element in addressing the structural causes of conflict and ensuring peace and stability in the medium term, taking account of the indissoluble link between security and development.

We must take full advantage of each regional organization's particular experience in its own sphere of competence and in the context of its own mandate. That is why we welcome the emphasis in today's debate and in the draft presidential statement to be adopted later in the meeting on the prevention of conflict and on peacebuilding. We consider that the Security Council and the Secretary-General should focus on both those areas.

Let me briefly note a number of areas in which my delegation feels that the efforts of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies can complement the work of regional and subregional organizations. I shall mention only the areas of strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, protecting civilians and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

On the latter matter, resolution 1631 (2005) stresses the role of regional organizations in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including by facilitating the identification and tracing of such weapons. We know that the illicit trade in these arms fuels conflict. That is why a number of regional and subregional organizations have gone to considerable lengths to prevent that trade. An major integrated focus on this, making it possible to repeat past successes, would be of great value to the United Nations. The same could be said of other regional problems such as transboundary organized crime and drug trafficking.

In conclusion, let me say that the regional and subregional organizations represented here have diverse mandates and capacities. Hence, we cannot have a single template for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and all these organizations. It is clear, however, that all have a contribution to make in achieving the purposes and principles of the United Nations. On the basis of the principle of complementarity, we can make more rational and effective use of the comparative advantages of each organization.

We should therefore work together to develop common principles that will enable us to make better use of these relationships, in accordance with the norms of international law. It is vital to establish mechanisms for consultation between relevant regional bodies and the Security Council, including periodic interactive dialogues. We have already set our common agenda; we need now to further define how we can work together closely and to our mutual benefit, as provided for in 1945.

Ms. DiCarlo (United States of America): Let me convey our sincere condolences on the loss of life, the injuries and the destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti. Let me also express our deep concern for the troops and staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti who are still missing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected, and we stand ready to assist the people of Haiti.

The United States would like to express its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing this important and timely debate. We also welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to convene, earlier this week, a meeting of regional organizations to advance dialogue and cooperation. We thank the representatives of organizations present here today for their comments and for their contributions to the maintenance of peace and security.

We share the goals set forth in the draft presidential statement prepared by China, namely, to promote greater cooperation between regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations. While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security remains with the Security Council, regional and subregional organizations play an important role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. That role is clearly spelled out in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and its importance has been emphasized in various Council resolutions and presidential statements.

With this in mind, I would like to make four points. First, regional organizations have unique perspectives and local understanding of conflicts, cultural norms and security challenges within their regions. This knowledge often gives them a comparative advantage in the prevention or resolution of conflicts. In many cases, they also have enormous influence over parties to a dispute.

The United States is a proud member of three of the organizations represented here today: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States (OAS). We contribute to NATO operations that provide security and stability in Afghanistan and Kosovo and that combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. We also work closely with the participating States of the OSCE, an organization that strives to prevent, mediate and resolve conflict situations in an area that stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The OAS is the oldest regional organization, predating the United Nations, and its leadership in the western hemisphere is renowned. The leadership of the OAS has been critical in supporting stability in Haiti and in peacefully restoring the democratic constitutional order in Honduras.

Let me say a word about the European Union (EU), which is a critical partner in managing crises in Europe and beyond. The United States congratulates the European Union on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, which will enable it to be an even stronger partner.

My second point is that it is in the interest of the United Nations to work with regional and subregional organizations to prevent conflicts or to resolve them once they occur. The United States welcomes the cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States in managing the recent crisis in Guinea, including the work of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.

We welcome the growing role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in its region and the steps it has taken to confront the challenge that Burma poses to the organization and to the international community. As Burma prepares for elections this year — the first since 1990 — it will be important for the United Nations and ASEAN to press for internal political dialogue as a step towards credible elections.

We also applaud the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, in particular the AU-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Organization's support for the AU's peacekeeping force in Somalia.

Thirdly, we support United Nations to strengthen the capacity of regional organizations to maintain peace and security, in particular in the area of peacekeeping. In that respect, we will continue to support efforts to enhance the African Union's capacity to plan, manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, as well as efforts under way to enhance strategic ties between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. The United States will also remain a major bilateral contributor to African peace operations by training and equipping initiatives.

Finally, we encourage regional and subregional organizations to help to ensure the effective implementation of recent Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict and on the protection of civilians. We also encourage them to play a greater role in peacebuilding efforts.

Our discussion today highlights the existing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in addressing crises. The United States welcomes further discussions and actions to deepen that cooperation.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): It was with profound and deep grief that Austria learned of the terrible earthquake that struck Haiti last night. We are deeply moved and shocked by the tragic losses, both among the Haitian people and the United Nations presence on the island. Let me extend my Government and country's deepest condolences to the Government and people of Haiti and to the families of those who have lost their lives in the service of the United Nations and the international community on the island. My country is actively engaged in emergency efforts currently being undertaken by the European Union (EU). We are also looking at possibilities to make the best possible national contribution in this very difficult and dramatic situation.

I would like to thank the Chinese presidency for organizing today's debate and for the draft presidential

statement that is before us, which builds on the work started with resolution 1631 (2005), nearly five years ago. Let me equally thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the regional organizations for their statements.

Austria aligns itself with the statement that was made by the representative of the European Union to the United Nations.

The Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the role of regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. In the light of the challenges of our century, it is clear that the United Nations cannot operate in isolation in maintaining international peace and security, but that it needs to be complemented by regional organizations, with their understanding of conflicts and their root causes and their capacity to respond. In very many cases, regional ownership is key to the success of the peacekeeping efforts of the international community and the United Nations on the ground. Most often, that regional ownership can best be provided through the involvement of the relevant regional and subregional organizations.

As pointed out by the Secretary-General, the challenges for effective cooperation lie in ensuring a clear division of labour and distribution of roles and tasks between the United Nations and regional organizations. With its Common Security and Defence Policy, the European Union can make an important contribution in the area of peace and security. It has developed significant capacities for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon last month and the creation of the Office of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will allow the European Union to speak to its partners with an even stronger and more unified voice.

The European Union's commitment to supporting the United Nations and the Security Council in their responses to threats to international peace and security is translated in the Union's support to all current United Nations peacekeeping operations. As the example of the European Union military operation in the Republic of Chad has shown, the European Union can also play a useful bridging role in crisis theatres until the United Nations and/or the respective regional or subregional organizations are ready to take over.

Let me also commend the important work carried out by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), whose election observation and field missions operative in participating States cooperate closely with United Nations agencies and missions. We are pleased that United Nations representatives will be invited to address the OSCE Permanent Council at Vienna in the course of this year. We are also pleased with the personal interest that the Secretary-General has continually shown in the work of the OSCE, as well as with the cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations.

The joint declaration on EU-United Nations cooperation in crisis management that was signed in 2003 established a joint consultative mechanism. It has proven to be a useful instrument for enhancing the partnership between the two organizations. Desk-to-desk consultations on conflict prevention between the United Nations and the European Union could be increased and — as models of dialogue — expanded to other organizations. In that context, we also welcome the Council's intention to hold informal interactive dialogues with regional and subregional organizations.

The challenges of today's United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the ever increasing demands for United Nations deployment, highlight the need for increased cooperation with and capacity-building of regional organizations. Enhanced regional capabilities for peacekeeping and conflict prevention are a prerequisite for strengthening regional ownership and responsibility for crisis management.

Austria fully supports a stronger role for regional and subregional actors such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern Africa Development Community in conflict prevention and resolution. Since 2003, the European Union has made a significant contribution, through the African Peace Facility, to the strengthening of the AU's ability to engage in peacekeeping operations on the African continent. We welcome the proposals contained in the Prodi report (see S/2008/813) and in the subsequent report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations (S/2009/470).

Stand-by arrangements are of particular relevance in the area of peacebuilding. By linking or coordinating United Nations rosters of experts with those of regional organizations, such as the European Union, we can

increase the pool of available expertise. Furthermore, close collaboration with regional and subregional organizations is crucial to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. In addition, training activities need to be intensified to meet the rising demand for qualified civilian personnel in peace operations. For several years, the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution has conducted regular training programmes on civilian peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Many of its participants are now serving in missions of regional organizations, including the African Union and the OSCE.

I would also like to point out the important role that regional and subregional organizations are playing and can play in implementing Security Council resolutions of a thematic nature. Resolution 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians explicitly stresses the importance of consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Consultation and cooperation are also needed to improve women's participation in peace processes, to ensure the protection of children affected by armed conflict and to combat impunity, corruption, terrorism and organized crime.

Finally, better exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned on all of the issues mentioned will be crucial, both between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as well as among regional organizations themselves. One of the lessons learned from the European Union civilian and military operations is that missions become more effective through the mainstreaming of human rights and gender aspects. Regional organizations will also be in a position to make a significant contribution to the successful preparations for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) later this year.

Let me add that Austria fully supports the presidential statement prepared by you, Mr. President, and your delegation.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, allow me to join in the expressions of solidarity and condolences with respect to the tragedy that has struck Haiti, the people of that country and United Nations personnel there.

We welcome the representatives of a numbe leading regional organizations and have caref listened to their assessments of such a compel subject. The issues being discussed today are of importance to the maintenance of international p and security. The global nature of today's challe and threats and the formulation of collec approaches necessary to address them effecti require an enhancement of United Nations coopera with regional and subregional organizations, accordance with the United Nations Charter, abov its Chapter VIII.

The United Nations and regional organizat ought to harmoniously complement each o bringing to bear their objective compar advantages. For the United Nations, this is above a universal membership, the nature of its activities its universally recognized legitimacy. The regi organizations, in turn, have a better awarenes situations within their own areas of responsibility in many instances have targeted preventive peacekeeping mechanisms.

Given the growing need for the effective div of labour between the United Nations and reg organizations, the leading role of the Security Co as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, rem inviolable in issues related to the maintenanc international peace and security. This holds true a all for the mandate authorization and oversigh regional or coalition peacekeeping operations allow for the use of force.

We favour regular meetings between Secretary-General and the heads of reg organizations. The United Nations cooperation ag with regional partners is growing in s Peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions have complemented by efforts to deal with the sprea weapons of mass destruction and the illegal traffi of small arms and light weapons, to address destabilizing transboundary problems, and to co drug trafficking and organized crime.

There is great potential in the gro cooperation between the United Nations and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). core areas of CSTO activities today were laid out b Secretary General, Mr. Bordyuzha. It is important within the CSTO, intensive work is under wa develop its own peacekeeping capacity, includin

involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In addition, the CSTO is making considerable contributions to international efforts for the post-conflict rehabilitation of Afghanistan and addressing the drug threat emanating from that country.

A serious contribution to ensuring stability and security in the Eurasian region is being made by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as reflected specifically in the statement of its Secretary General, Mr. Imanaliyev. Its members have made clear their readiness to develop cooperation with the United Nations in a number of key areas, including in countering international terrorism and the illicit spread of drugs and assisting in the post-conflict rebuilding of Afghanistan.

We must continue to build upon the experience of positive cooperation between the United Nations and its Security Council with regional and subregional partners in Africa, including the African Union. An excellent example of such cooperation is the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

An important role in finding peaceful ways to address the myriad problems of their respective regions is also being played by the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Organization of American States.

We would also like to see further development, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, of the cooperation between the United Nations and such structures as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and NATO.

We are certain that the growing cohesiveness between regional partners and the United Nations will continue. On the one hand, regional and subregional organizations must more actively offer their help in terms of providing resources and comparative advantages. On the other hand, the United Nations should give further attention to maximizing coordination and interaction with these structures while reasonably dividing the labour and maintaining the prerogatives of this universal Organization and its Security Council.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the entire Chinese delegation for organizing this meeting and for preparing the excellent draft presidential statement that will be adopted today with our full support.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): At the outset, I, too, would like to express my deep shock and sorrow over the serious devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti. I recall that, last year, one of the highlights of the Council's work was a visit to Haiti, and we were really impressed by the leadership of Hedi Annabi and his team as well as the Government and people of Haiti. We therefore stand by the people and Government of Haiti and United Nations staff and their families in this most unprecedented difficulty. Japan is ready to extend every possible measure of support.

I thank the Chinese presidency for organizing this important debate on this subject with the participation of so many representatives of regional organizations. We are grateful to our guests for their interesting and valuable presentations. The Secretary-General kindly laid out the framework and principle of cooperation with regional organizations.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is enshrined in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. It constitutes an integral part of the United Nations architecture for international peace and security. Strengthening such cooperation is therefore important in promoting the objectives of the Charter. Regional organizations have first-hand understanding of the local conditions and can make best use of their expertise for peace and security in the region.

At the same time, what I would like to emphasize is that, as the statements of respective regional organizations made clear this morning, every regional organization has an inherent historical background, distinct objectives and diverse membership. In formulating strategies for cooperation, we need to fully take into account the specific characteristics, situation and capacity of each of them. We are also mindful of the need to uphold international norms and standards. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should therefore be complementary and not mutually exclusive.

The Charter provides in article 54 that the Security Council shall be kept informed of the activities of regional organizations. Today's thematic debate gives a timely opportunity to have such a strategic dialogue. High-level dialogue and information-sharing are the first and critical step for

better cooperation. The United Nations can share its experience and lessons, which regional organizations may draw on in addressing the issues.

The consultation mechanism with the African Union is more advanced than others. The regular interaction and strategic dialogue initiated in 2007 between the African Union and United Nations should therefore be emulated with other organizations.

In my view, the United Nations can promote four types of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

First, the United Nations should encourage regional organizations to prevent and resolve conflict peacefully. Finding a regional solution to a regional issue is frequently effective, and the United Nations can complement and reinforce its efforts in compliance with international standards.

The African Union (AU) and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States are the best examples of this as they undertake increasingly active peace initiatives in many parts of Africa.

In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is promoting the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and principles for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Many States of the region, including Japan, have signed this Treaty, which is a testimony to the fact that it is an effective measure for confidence-building not only in the region, but also beyond ASEAN.

We also acknowledge the important role of organizations such as the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of American States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Pacific Islands Forum, among others, which strive for the prevention and peaceful solution of conflicts in their respective regions.

Secondly, the United Nations and regional organizations may promote peace jointly or in parallel. This type of complementary cooperation starts with peace mediation. The most notable examples are, obviously, the joint nomination by the United Nations and the AU of the Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Bassole, and the appointment of co-facilitators President Obasanjo as United Nations Special Representative and President Mkapa as AU envoy for the Great Lakes region. The United Nations taking regional perspective into account in appointing a mediator can be a model case for other regions.

The joint or parallel deployment of peacekee and other field missions in the same area of opera is also important. The hybrid arrangement of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operatio Darfur (UNAMID) is such an example, of course type of complementary cooperation is most usef the area of peacebuilding, including in elec support, cross-border drug and small arms traffic control, mine action and security sector reform course, each region may be in a different situation the sharing of experiences among reg organizations may be useful.

Cooperation between regional organizations the United Nations has been significantly enhance the active support of the Peacebuilding Commi (PBC) in the past few years. It may be w considering creating a subregion-specific rather th country-specific configuration of the PBC to di the challenges common to the countries of subregion.

Thirdly, I refer to what might be called seque cooperation. This type of cooperation can be useful in the case of a peacekeeping operation in w a regional organization has taken initiative in adv and conditions have become mature enough to h over eventually by the United Nations. The ca point is, of course, Chad and the Central Af Republic, where the United Nations took over peacekeeping mission from the European Union. I Sudan, UNAMID succeeded the African U Mission in Sudan, which was initiated by the AU. AU Mission in Somalia, with logistical support the United Nations, is at the forefront of stabilizin country until the future status is decided by Security Council.

It is important to mobilize international sup for the efforts of regional organizations to streng the capacity of peacekeeping personnel and asse meet United Nations standards. I would lik emphasize that the United Nations and reg organizations should work together to help Me States through training and capacity-building.

Fourthly, regional organizations or countries provide security support that is essential to car out the activities of United Nations missions. In

United Nations missions, situations may not be secure and stable enough for the Organization to remain on the ground without such assistance. Cooperation from regional organizations is critical to the successful implementation by United Nations missions of their mandates. Such cooperation can obviously be found in Afghanistan, where the International Security Assistance Force supports security for the country and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is charged with the political role. Similar essential security supports were provided at the early stages of the United Nations missions in East Timor, Kosovo and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Security Council should pay tribute to those who made sacrifices in support of United Nations peace activities in those places.

In conclusion, it is very clear that all four types of cooperation are indispensable if the Security Council is to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter effectively. We should therefore continue to encourage and promote every possible type of cooperation. Japan will do its best to support regional organizations in strengthening their capacities in conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In particular, we are interested in supporting peacekeeping training centres in Africa and Asia, in creating and training peacebuilding experts in Asia and elsewhere through our centre in Hiroshima, and in building national police capacity in many countries, including Afghanistan, Chad and Somalia. I hope that such assistance will contribute to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in promoting peace and security.

Mr. Araud (France) *spoke in French*: I join my colleagues in offering my condolences to the people and authorities of Haiti. We must now mobilize to provide the Haitian people with all the help they need. France has already done so from the French West Indies and the metropolitan territory.

I also express my condolences to the Secretary-General for the loss of the Secretariat personnel among the victims of the earthquake, and to the troop-contributing countries for the soldiers of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti who remain unaccounted for. I am aware that there are a number of Chinese soldiers among them.

I should like to thank you, Sir, for organizing this debate on a subject of great importance to France. As has been said, cooperation in matters of peace and security between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Such cooperation also aligns with the interests of the United Nations and the regional organizations alike. On the one hand, the operations of regional and subregional organizations need the essential political and legal legitimacy that is conferred by the Security Council's mandates. On the other hand, the United Nations can benefit from the operational expertise and means of regional organizations, particularly at a time when the gravity and number of conflicts worldwide requires the mobilization of all available resources. That is true at every stage of crisis management and prevention, early warning, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Among the regional organizations, the European Union stands out by virtue of its highly developed cooperation with the United Nations. It is well known that the European Union has a security and defence mandate to participate in peace and security initiatives in Europe and beyond. We have operational capacities that enable us to support the United Nations and to participate in several concurrent operations in different theatres. At the political level, members of the European Union share a common commitment to the United Nations Charter.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that today — as the representative of the European Union noted — that organization is one of the principal contributors to world peace and security within the framework defined by the United Nations Charter. On all continents, the European Union demonstrates that the European enterprise is not only in the interests of its citizens, but that it is also a new way to express the values of our continent throughout the world.

In addition to the central role of the European Union, I should also like to emphasize the role of the African Union in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa within the framework of United Nations resolutions, be it in the context of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur or of missions authorized by the Security Council, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia. At the bilateral level, the European Union also supports the strengthening of the capacities of the African Union and subregional African organizations, particularly the Economic Community of West African States, in the field of peace and security. The European Union assists

African Union peacekeeping missions through its African Peacekeeping Facility.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is therefore growing. It fills a very obvious need. Because its legitimacy is based on the United Nations Charter, such cooperation under Security Council auspices presupposes respect for the values of our Organization, in particular international humanitarian law.

Naturally, we lend our full support to the draft presidential statements before us on the subject of today's debate and on the situation in Haiti.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Let me begin by expressing our profound grief at yesterday's devastating earthquake in Haiti. On behalf of the people and Government of Brazil, I would like to convey our heartfelt sympathies to the Haitian people and Government and our concern about the United Nations peacekeepers and staff members who have been affected. Brazil is present in Haiti through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Our contingent, including an engineering company, is assisting in the rescue efforts. We have also taken measures to send humanitarian assistance, and the Minister of Defence is in route to Haiti as we speak to lead a needs-assessment mission and to oversee our relief efforts. I am sure that, with the help and solidarity of the international community, the Haitian people, known for its resilience and courage, will overcome that very difficult and tragic situation.

I wish to congratulate China's delegation on organizing this debate and for providing us with a concept paper (S/2010/9) to guide it. I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement, and I extend a warm welcome to the representatives of regional and subregional organizations, in particular Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The United Nations Charter foresaw the importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. It laid the foundations for such cooperation, which is never an abdication by the Security Council of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Rather, it is an effective means by which the Council can discharge its responsibility.

The corpus of Security Council resolutions and presidential statements recognizes the importance of engaging regional and subregional organizations throughout the cycle of conflict, from prevention to reconstruction. We are pleased that the draft presidential statement before us today adopts the balanced approach that we favour, dedicating as much attention to conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding as to peacekeeping.

Preventive diplomacy is an issue dear to my delegation. It is the surest path to peace and should be actively pursued by the Security Council and the Secretariat. We support the efforts made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in that regard.

The active involvement of regional and subregional organizations in preventing conflicts is often a decisive factor for success. Some of their unique advantages are a particularly rich network of contacts with relevant actors, the ability to closely follow events on the ground and to draw on an in-depth knowledge of the conflict and political dynamics of the region, and a lesser risk of being perceived as interfering in the internal affairs of countries.

In that context, the United Nations can help to develop or strengthen the preventive diplomacy and early warning capacities of regional and subregional organizations. We welcome the Council's willingness to seriously look at innovative ways to further that type of cooperation.

In some cases, the prevention of conflicts means addressing some of the root causes that may lead to conflict, in particular social and economic underdevelopment. There too, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations may be useful. In Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, which are largely free from threats to international peace and security, the United Nations could make a positive contribution to the continued stability of the region by increasing its cooperation with the OAS in that area, in particular with a view to helping countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals in a timely manner.

The potential advantages of regional and subregional organizations are also valuable when prevention fails and conflicts arise. In such cases, our first and firm choice must be the peaceful settlement of the dispute. Here again, the Security Council will have to judge whether peace is best served through its direct

action or in cooperation with partners in the affected region or subregion.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional or subregional organizations has also proven beneficial in the domain of peacekeeping. That is evident, for example, in the collaboration between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the OAS in Haiti, and especially in the active relationship between the United Nations and the African Union.

We support the increased cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union envisaged in the presidential statement of October 2009 (S/PRST/2009/26), especially the acceleration of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme. We look forward to its full and timely implementation. More is needed, however. The support to troops in the field must be more agile and substantial; operation coordination and political dialogue should improve; and resources should be provided in a more timely and predictable way.

Because they are each unique and the product of a specific political culture, regional and subregional organizations can offer invaluable specialized assistance to the Security Council in the discharge of its primary responsibility. That is a solid foundation for fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Finally, Brazil supports the draft presidential statement that is before the Council today and thanks the Chinese delegation for its timely preparation.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize this important debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and for providing a valuable concept paper (S/2010/9) to facilitate the discussions. Nigeria is pleased to have the representatives of various international organizations, whose activities have greatly inspired world peace and security, share their perspectives with us. In particular, I appreciate the presence of the Secretary-General and his very useful contribution to this debate. Let me also acknowledge the presence of the Deputy Secretary-General, Mrs. Asha-Rose Migiro, at this forum.

Let me take this opportunity to express Nigeria's solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti over the tragic earthquake that took place yesterday. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims of that disaster, including the United Nations personnel.

This debate is coming right on the heels of the commencement of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, as declared by the African Union. The proclamation of 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa was made against the backdrop of the sober acknowledgment of the scourge of conflicts and the shortcomings and errors in resolving them.

Nigeria is particularly pleased with the depth of cooperation that exists between the United Nations and the African Union, and welcomes the intention to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation between the two organizations. We note with satisfaction that, since the cooperation began, significant strides have been made in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and economic reconstruction in numerous African countries. That is in consonance with one of the key objectives of Africa's Year of Peace and Security, which is to create a momentum for a more enabling social and political environment to emerge in Africa by the end of this year. In that connection, we recall the historic meeting of the Security Council in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2006 and its positive contribution to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on the Sudan.

While emphasizing the need to consolidate those gains, Nigeria believes that regional bodies like the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should assume leadership, with the international community lending the requisite support for the maintenance of regional peace and security. Those organizations are better placed in terms of geographical proximity, political and cultural familiarity with local conditions, and shared experiences with regard to regional peace and security initiatives.

Indeed, the response of ECOWAS to the situations in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and the Republic of the Niger is illustrative of that potential. Thus, we would like to emphasize the need for the United Nations to intensify such regional initiatives and to accelerate its efforts to implement the United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union. More strident efforts are also required to operationalize the African Union Standby Force and the Continental Early Warning System.

Nigeria recognizes that there are competing demands and needs not only in Africa and with regard to peace and security, but also in other regions and on myriad issues. Therefore, we believe that it is important to consider the following: first, prioritize actions; secondly, adopt innovative approaches; thirdly, assess impact and sustainability; and fourthly, promote the complementarity of roles in the promotion of peace and security.

This will require greater partnerships, inclusiveness and purposeful leadership. We believe that there is scope in the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to incorporate these vital elements. Our best intentions would, however, amount to nothing if we failed to provide adequate, flexible and predictable funding for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

It is also necessary to coordinate efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations. Indeed, the integration of Africa into the international financial and trading system as a partner is imperative. We admit that the continent cannot go it alone in its quest to achieve sustainable development. Nigeria strongly supports closer collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and we would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your draft presidential statement. Nigeria endorses it and we hope that it will be adopted at the end of this debate.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): At the outset, allow me to express our heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of those who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti yesterday. At this moment of tragedy, our hearts and prayers are with the people of Haiti and the men and women serving under the United Nations flag there. Turkey is among the countries that swiftly embarked upon providing emergency relief assistance to Haiti, and we will continue to do our utmost to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people.

I would like to commend you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize this important debate. Indeed, as is called for in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is of crucial significance in maintaining international peace and security. I therefore very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue in the Council, in dialogue with some of the most prominent regional organizations.

In this context, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the representatives of the organizations who are with us today and to thank them for their very valuable briefings and contributions. Their high-level presence is testimony to our shared objectives and joint commitment to advancing peace and security in every part of the world.

I would, of course, be remiss if I did not mention the Secretary-General, whose dedication to enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is most commendable. I also thank him for organizing the retreat held earlier this week, which, in a way, prepared the ground for today's debate and provided important perspectives for our discussion.

The issue at hand is not new to the Council's agenda. In fact, there have been numerous Council discussions on this particular item in the past few years. However, today's debate is distinguished by its broad representation of regional organizations. Indeed, in less than two hours, we covered the entire globe from various regional viewpoints, and benefited from the insightful perspectives that could only come from such a distinguished panel of regional bodies.

Beyond this, the decision this time to listen to our counterparts before making our own remarks has proved a very wise one. That is because the organizations represented here today are those that deal on a day-to-day basis with the problems of their regions and make a real difference on the ground through their active involvement. In other words, there is a lot we have to learn from them while carrying out our responsibilities in the Council. This is why their views and recommendations, which are of a very practical nature, provide an excellent basis for our deliberations today and in the future.

This new order of speakers also allows me to be very brief. Indeed, given the scope, breadth and quality of the interventions made so far, I do not have to dwell on the issue at length. Suffice it to say that we agree with the thrust of each and every presentation made today by the representatives of the regional organizations. We welcome in particular their keen interest in working with the United Nations and further strengthening their cooperation with us.

The challenge for us now is to build on this renewed commitment, explore new and practical schemes of enhanced cooperation, and put in place the mechanisms that will effectively reflect the spirit of partnership that prevails in this Chamber today. If and when we succeed in doing so, we will certainly have created a win-win situation for both the United Nations and our regional counterparts, and above all for global peace and security.

After all, we have to accept that in today's security environment, laden with multifaceted and complex challenges, the United Nations is not capable of dealing with all the problems threatening international peace and security. Given the importance of addressing conflicts at their core, we need strong and effective partners at the regional level. That in turn requires genuine collaboration with such organizations, including regular consultations and exchanges of experience and best practices, as well as assistance in capacity-building when necessary.

This is particularly the case with peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours, where the United Nations is increasingly stretched. Indeed, any contribution by regional organizations in this area is of great importance, not only for the purposes of sharing burdens but also to ensure regional ownership, which often proves to be the best guarantee of sustaining peace and stability. In this regard, we are particularly grateful to such organizations as NATO, the European Union and the African Union for their determined efforts and exemplary commitment. We cannot overemphasize the need to further enhance United Nations cooperation with these organizations in the area of peacekeeping and related activities.

That said, the scope of United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations goes far beyond peacekeeping. Indeed, conflict prevention through early warning, political mediation, cooperative interaction and confidence-building is as important as peacekeeping, if not more so. This is also where regional organizations, with their innate understanding of the root causes of conflicts and of the dynamics in play among different parties, are at their best.

Here, I would like to pay special tribute to the endeavours undertaken in these areas by all the invited organizations from Turkey's immediate neighbourhood, notably those of the League of Arab States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Of course, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), whose membership spans four different continents, plays a particularly unique role in solidifying the foundations of global peace and creating better understanding between different cultures and religions. As was pointed out by Secretary General Ihsanoglu, the OIC's active involvement in many issues of common interest, ranging from Iraq to Somalia and Afghanistan, and from counter-terrorism to peacebuilding, makes that organization an integral part of the solutions we are collectively seeking in the United Nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the President for extending an invitation to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), whose Executive Director was unfortunately unable to make it here today, due to a scheduling conflict. That said, Turkey is the upcoming chair of CICA, and in that capacity I assure the Council of CICA's firm dedication to upholding peace and security in Asia in cooperation with the United Nations. CICA is something of a newcomer to the family of regional organizations, but, given its broad membership, which covers almost 90 per cent of the continent, as well as its track record in building confidence and cooperation among its members, it holds great potential for advancing our common goals.

In conclusion, allow me to express Turkey's sincere commitment to exerting every effort with a view to further advancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

Turkey is a full member of four of the organizations invited today and enjoys very special relations with the rest. As such, we will be pushing from both ends to bring about truly effective collaboration between the United Nations and these organizations in pursuit of our common objectives and principles. It is also in that spirit that we fully support the draft presidential statement prepared by China.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): Gabon would naturally like to associate itself with the heartfelt words of solidarity and condolence offered by previous speakers towards the people of Haiti following the tragedy they have just experienced. The brotherly people of Haiti should know that we are shoulder to shoulder with them in these extremely

difficult circumstances. I would also like to offer my condolences to the Secretary-General on the loss of United Nations personnel that was caused by this tragedy.

Mr. President, Gabon welcomes your country's initiative to hold during its presidency this public debate devoted to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. Although this issue has been addressed in a number of United Nations debates, it is still undeniable that its complexity and the breadth of concerns that it covers mean that we must continue to reflect on this issue in the light of recent developments. This debate is thus a further opportunity for us to have an exchange of views on this important subject and to take stock of the progress made.

I welcome the presence among us of the Secretary-General and of the representatives of regional organizations, who have come to share their views on this matter.

We cannot speak of the maintenance of international peace and security without mentioning the numerous crises and conflicts in Africa. Africa has already shown its commitment to turn to African solutions to African problems. African countries are deploying their own peacekeeping mission and provide large numbers of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions on the continent.

In many cases and in a variety of areas, cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations has yielded significant results. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, did not fail to mention them in their statements. The potential for partnership between the AU and the United Nations is vast. Therefore, it must be pursued further, so that we can achieve even better results.

As recognized unanimously during previous meetings of the Security Council on this subject, Africa is still facing a shortfall in the financial and logistical resources that it needs to successfully conduct its peacekeeping activities. Somalia, for example, is very worrisome. The difficulty of restoring peace and stability in that country is due essentially to the absence of more effective cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on the ground. As we know, the African Union by itself will be unable to restore stability in Somalia. The deployment of hybrid forces under United Nations auspices, and predictable, flexible and sustainable financial assistance from donor countries to the African Union are absolutely necessary in order to bring peace to that country.

The crisis in Somalia clearly shows how important it is for the international community to increase its technical, financial and logistical support to African Union peacekeeping missions. We would like to welcome the conclusions of the report of the African Union-United Nations panel of experts chaired by Mr. Romano Prodi (see S/2008/813). The report contains important recommendations, including those pertaining to the financing of African Union-led peacekeeping missions. My country fully supports the report's proposals and particularly appreciates the recommendation to establish a trust fund to finance the peacekeeping capacities of the African Union. No one can deny that this fund will give the pan-African organization the resources it needs to carry out activities in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

The maintenance of international peace and security is at the heart of the political and ideological mission of the United Nations. Therefore, it is important that the Security Council take up the challenge of collective security in partnership with regional and subregional organizations; only they have a deep understanding of the underlying causes of conflicts in their respective regions and the ability to propose strategies for resolving them. With regard to Africa, the Year of Peace initiative is an opportunity to further build on this partnership.

Peace cannot be restored in Africa — or elsewhere — solely by deploying troops. We must promote a comprehensive approach to these problems in order to best develop long-term strategies that will enable countries to practice the virtues of good political and economic governance. Here, the international community should assist our countries in our search for solutions to our economic problems to enable us to respond to the aspirations of our people and to break the cycle of violence and conflict.

As the proposed draft presidential statement takes into account the views of my country, I cannot fail to support it or to congratulate you on it, Mr. President.

The draft statement to the press on the situation in Haiti also has our support.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the outset, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all those affected by the earthquake that struck Haiti yesterday. Our support goes to the Government and the people of Haiti in their rescue and recovery efforts. Our sympathy also goes to the families of all United Nations personnel currently in Haiti; our thoughts are with them.

Mr. President, we would like to thank you for convening today's debate on improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. We would also like to thank the representatives of those organizations for sharing with the Council their latest accomplishments, challenges and experiences with respect to enhanced cooperation and coordination among themselves and with the United Nations. This debate is timely, given the new and enduring threats and obstacles to international peace and security. Some of these challenges call for determined action and more coordinated and vigorous engagement.

One of the most complex examples of regional and international collaboration to date took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Even though the cooperation in peacemaking and peacebuilding was complex and difficult, the process ultimately resulted in peace. Moreover, the experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed to the development of institutional knowledge, strategies and tools subsequently applied in other war-torn regions.

As a result of our own experience, we believe that international organizations can ultimately complement one another's efforts. While regional organizations can contribute knowledge of local circumstances in pursuit of peace and security, the United Nations possesses legitimacy, the power to mandate, institutional knowledge, resources and experience.

The complementary roles of the United Nations and regional organizations in several key spheres have contributed to peace and security. For instance, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nation, regional and subregional organizations have worked together in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. Operations in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Kosovo, Afghanistan and other places have been carried out jointly between regional organizations and the United Nations. We should reaffirm once again our commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes within such frameworks.

There is an increasing awareness that some peacekeeping missions may need to grow into peacebuilding missions. We should support such transformation because, more often than not, long-term regional peace and security depends upon the internal stability of States. Regional organizations can act as bridges when ownership of a peace process is transferred from international organizations to domestic authorities.

The fight against international terrorism is another area where the aforementioned cooperation is required, as is the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Regarding the latter issue, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) has called for closer coordination of efforts on the international, national, regional and subregional levels. Sharing information in a timely manner can prove essential in addressing these issues.

The roles and responsibilities of regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention are important. In this context, cooperation and information-sharing can enhance early warning system for conflict prevention. Hence, the development of regional safeguards should be encouraged, so as to help create coherent and well-built frameworks to address such security concerns.

In addition, it is essential to tackle cross-border problems, for the sake not only of regional but also of global peace and security. Issues such as illicit drug trafficking, crime prevention, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, problems of displaced persons and refugees and trafficking in human beings, to name but a few, can be further integrated into existing frameworks of cooperation.

To streamline efforts between regional organizations and the United Nations is particularly critical when dealing with the response to natural disasters. Natural disasters require a quick and well managed response. This is especially relevant and

challenging, since there is always a link between natural disasters and long-term economic and other kinds of security.

The success of cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations relies on a common vision and common goals. Moreover, reaching those goals will require a flexible but systemic approach in which coordination mechanisms ensure the optimal use of time and resources. Such cooperation enables countries which only yesterday were subjects of international peace endeavours to actively take part in such efforts today.

In conclusion, we support the draft presidential statement that has been circulated.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, we convey our most sincere condolences to the people of Haiti and to the personnel of international organizations at this time of tragedy.

I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important discussion and for this opportunity to engage in an exchange of views with representatives of regional and subregional organizations on cooperation between the United Nations and such organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his participation in this meeting and for his valuable contribution. We welcome the representatives of regional organizations; we appreciate their presence at today's meeting.

The authors of the Charter of the United Nations devoted an entire chapter — Chapter VIII — to regional organizations and indicated their role in the maintenance of international peace and security, noting that this role was complementary to that of the United Nations. Hence the importance of this cooperation and of the added value these organizations bring. A number of examples may be drawn from current international relations, the most recent among them on the African continent. These examples show the importance of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, whether in terms of deploying peacekeeping forces or of dispatching representatives to the field to participate in political processes and serve as mediators in conflict situations.

The success of these efforts is based on the fact that these organizations are in close proximity to the conflicts taking place in their respective regions. Their historical, geographic, social and cultural ties enable them to understand the background of a conflict and to find the best path to a peaceful resolution. Moreover, such organizations have special motivations to address conflicts on the ground.

Regional and subregional organizations play a role during three phases: prior to the outbreak of a conflict, to engage in preventive diplomacy; during a conflict, to lessen and contain its effects and bring about a peaceful settlement; and following a conflict, to participate in peacebuilding. We believe it very important that additional memorandums of understanding and other arrangements be signed between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, taking into account the capacities and responsibilities of each, with a view to setting out a clear, effective framework for cooperation and coordination mechanisms for promoting dialogue and exchanges of expertise. It is also necessary to broaden the framework of cooperation to encompass disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, along with economic and social, cultural and environmental issues. Such efforts are extremely valuable in addressing the root causes of crises.

We welcome the efforts that have been made in this area. In our view, there should be an annual meeting between the Security Council and representatives of regional and subregional organizations in order to assess cooperation, identify lessons learned and formulate future policies. Multilateral cooperation requires the exchange of expertise, information and lessons learned both with respect to peacekeeping operations and to a variety of newer tasks such as election monitoring.

Lebanon encourages the provision of material support for regional organizations. They deserve such resources to enable them to carry out their missions. Also needed is greater interest in technical training and human resource development for those organizations. There must be coordination meetings between the United Nations and the secretariats of regional organizations, and among the latter.

Lebanon calls for greater coordination and cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations. The League covers a broad area of the world, encompassing more than 22 States ranging from West Africa to the Atlantic Ocean. That region continues to be the theatre of many conflicts and great

suffering. The most salient is the Israeli-Arab conflict, which has been on the agenda of the Security Council for a very long time. Promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States could help realize the Organization's goals of the maintenance of international peace and security, through the implementation of international law and of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, in particular with respect to bringing an end to occupation and ensuring the right of self-determination.

There is little need to recall that the Arab Peace Initiative offered by the League of Arab States during its 2002 summit in Beirut, aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict, is an essential initiative. There is little need to recall that, in the context of the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons and the prevention of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, the League of Arab States was among the first organizations to call for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Lebanon continues also to be committed to enhancing cooperation and coordination with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which encompasses more than 1.4 billion Muslims worldwide, given the growing urgency of dialogue between cultures and religions. Such a dialogue is even more urgent today than in the past.

Finally, we thank the Chinese delegation for having prepared a draft presidential statement for adoption by the Security Council; we endorse that text.

The President *(spoke in Chinese)*: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

We are gravely concerned about the powerful earthquake that occurred yesterday in Haiti. We express our deep condolences to the Haitian people and concerning the casualties among United Nations peacekeepers and other personnel. As an initial step in our assistance, a Chinese international rescue team of more than 60 members departed Beijing this morning in a special aeroplane and with specialized equipment. The team is expected to arrive in Haiti this evening to begin its rescue work. Moreover, the Chinese Red Cross has decided to provide $1 million in international humanitarian assistance to Haiti.

Turning to the item on our agenda, China places great emphasis on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. In that connection, I would like to focus on the following four points.

First, to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, it is imperative to adhere to the principles and relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Secondly, regional organizations have unique advantages in carrying out preventive diplomacy and engaging in facilitation with countries in their respective regions to settle disputes through such peaceful means as mediation, negotiation and good offices. The Security Council should encourage regional organizations to play a positive role in that regard.

Thirdly, the United Nations and regional organizations have their own respective advantages in maintaining international peace and security. They should strengthen coordination and complement and synergize each other's efforts. As regional organizations vary from each other in many aspects, a flexible and pragmatic approach may be adopted in the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

Fourthly, with regard to capacity-building, we support the United Nations in providing more assistance to regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and statements of its President which underscore the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional and subregional organizations.
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> "The Security Council recalls the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reiterates its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of

international peace and security and further recalls that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, can improve collective security.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of conflict early warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and to ensure the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts. In this regard, it welcomes the already existing strong cooperation initiatives between the United Nations and regional organizations.

"The Security Council commends the ongoing efforts and contributions made by the Secretariat to consolidate partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and welcomes the convening of the Secretary-General's Retreat with Heads of Regional and other Organizations on 11-12 January 2010. The Council expresses its intention to hold in the future informal interactive dialogues with regional and subregional organizations.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, acknowledges the important contribution of regional and subregional organizations to the peaceful settlement of local disputes and preventive diplomacy, as they are well positioned to understand the root causes of many conflicts and other security challenges. The Council underlines the importance of utilizing the existing and potential capabilities of regional and subregional organizations in this regard, including through encouraging countries in the region to resolve differences peacefully through dialogue, reconciliation, consultation, negotiation, good offices, mediation and judicial settlement of disputes. The Security Council is resolved to strengthen United Nations support for the peaceful settlement of disputes through improved interaction and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

"The Security Council invites the Secretariat and all regional and subregional organizations that have a capacity for peacekeeping to enhance their working relations and to further explore how their collaboration could better contribute to the fulfilment of United Nations mandates and goals, so as to ensure a coherent framework for peacekeeping. The Council underlines the importance of regional and subregional organizations enhancing their peacekeeping capabilities and the value of international support to their efforts, in particular to the African Union, in terms of the 2006 United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

"The Security Council recognizes the role that regional and subregional organizations can play in post-conflict peacebuilding, recovery, reconstruction and development processes and affirms the importance of interaction and cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations. The Council encourages the Commission to continue to work in close consultation with regional and subregional organizations, with a view to ensuring more consistent and integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery.

"The Security Council recognizes the need for close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, for the coherent and effective implementation of its resolutions, including those on thematic issues applicable to a wide range of conflict situations.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretariat and regional and subregional organizations to further explore information-sharing on their respective capabilities and lessons-learned in maintaining international peace and security and to continue to compile best practices, in particular in the field of mediation, good offices and peacekeeping. The Council also encourages strengthening of cooperation and dialogue among regional and subregional organizations in this regard."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2010/1.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I would like to thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of regional and subregional organizations for participating in today's meeting.

The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.